

WOULD YOU SPEND £20,000 ON A WEDDING DRESS: ...Or would a £200 one be as good? FASHION, PAGE 14.

insist

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Blair in secret nuclear dumping deal

andPhil Reeves in Moscow

pile nuclear material from the its laws to import nuclear waste, troubled former Soviet republished was approached but the UK.

BRITAIN has agreed to stock-

otherwise be stolen by terrorists. Tial had been m and used or sold to make a miclear bomb, the material a spokesman said Webelee we mixture of 4 kilograms (8.6 have an enormous role to play pounds) of highly entailed una thick is also a practical spin off nium and 0.8 kilos. (1.76 for the HK the material will he medical ison pounds) of spent miclear fuel— be used to make medical iso is being removed from a defunct topes. These can be used for 40-year-gldfresearch reactor, lo-various forms of radiotherapy cated 12 miles from the Geor- and detection gian capital Tbilisi A team made up of American military why the UK volunteered to and civil suclear experts is preparing it for transport in the next few days by US military aircraft to the Dante y complex commercial reprocessing at in northern Scotland for re- Doumreay and by British Nuprocessing

Greenpeace described the plan, codenamed Auburn Endeavour, as "ill conceived and dangerous" and pointed out that Dounreay will probably not be able even to begin reprocessing the material until 2001, transferred it to a nuclear combecause of a breakdown in its plex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. er move reprocessing systems and ex-

and said the decision "smacks. would be challenged by enviof hypocrisy , claiming that the ; US has refused to have nuclear. vaste reprocessed at the facilty because "it believed it would prive to be a major proliferaion risk". Kevin Dunion, the roup's director, said: "Scotand's health and cavironment. hould not have to be traded for uch short-termism. This will indoubledly open the radioacive flood gates where Scotland

s concerned." Though small, Georgia's nulear legacy has long caused will pay the estimated \$2m oncern in the West, largely beause of the risk that it would and up in the hands of terroras or nations considered to be ptentially bostile, such as Iran. The Caucasus republic sits at he heart of an unstable region. riss-crossed with territorial ispates and littered with the eckage of recent wars. The US Energy and State

lie of Georgia, under a secret also declined, but the UK-deal brokered by the United agreed. Amidst fears that it might the decision to take the mate-

Yet mystery remained over

take the waste. While the amount is tiny compared to the many tonnes transferred during clear Fuels, the US would appear better placed to take it and has done so before. In 1994, the US took more than 600 kilograms of weaponsgrade uranium from Kazakhstan in a secret deal and

This time though, the US isting commercial contracts. . . State Department reportedly Friends of the Earth Scot : suspected that any import ronmental groups such as the Sierra Club, which opposed the import of spent fuel from a research reactor in Taiwan during the 1980s.

Instead, the UK volunteered. "It reflects the share of responsibility among the international community," insisted a Foreign Office spokesman. The US has already made enormous efforts. We believe that we have an enormous vole to play." The US (£1.25m) cost of the transport, suggesting that the UK is making a diplomatic investment for some time when a favour is required from Washington.

The material has been kept in a cooling pond at the weather-beaten complex, and survived untouched throughout the Georgian civil war of the 1990s, when the reactor was virtually unguarded:



Linda McCartney's last precious days



One of the last photographs of Linda McCartney, who died five days ago, taken by her daughter, Mary, at the family's Report, and another photograph, page 3 East Sussex farm a few days before her final trip to the US.

Murdoch's marriage breaks up

MEDIA MOGUL Rupert Murdoch used a gossip column in one of his own newspapers to yesterday announce his separation from his wife Anna after 31 years of marriage.

A single paragraph in the Liz Smith column of the New York Post announced an "amicable" separation between the two but described it as "painful and

leaves them torn". The announcement shocked friends of the couple and the media business. Anna Murdoch, 54, is a devout, conservative Catholic, strongly opposed o abortion and is thought unikely to ever seek a divorce.

For his part, Mr Murdoch, despite his hillions, is a wellknown loner with few friends. He was known to be close only to his wife and children.

New York gossips immediately pounced on the story yesterday. Rival newspapers claimed no other woman was involved and that "Anna has been trying to get to him to slow down for some time".

pher of Mr Murdoch, said living with the media mogul cannot have been easy: "It must be awful being married to a globe-trotting obsessive like Murdoch, It was probably her Catholicism that kept them together for so long. Now that the children are older she must be asking what is left for her?

"Yet it comes as a shock. She has always publicly been ex-



tremely loyal to him, defending him when he's been attacked."

The brief New York Post announcement of the separation managed to inform the world that Mrs Murdoch would be staying on the board of her hushand's holding company, News Corp. She had heen spoken of a stop-gap chief executive of the company if Mr Murdoch were to die before any of his children were old enough to take over.

The Sun newspaper, owned by Mr Murdoch, had no plans for a major investigation of the separation, unusual for seen a high-profile figure. The story stayed off its news list yesterday and an insider at the paper said: "If we do run it, it will be two paragraphs hidden somewhere just so we can say we covered it."

Mrs Murdoch, Scottish by birth, met the then mini-mogul when she was 22 and a diary columnist for his first purchase, the Sydney Daily Mirror. He was 14 years her senior. They married in 1967, two years after Mr Murdoch's divorce from his first wife Patricia Mader.

Labour orders its MPs to get out on the doorstep

Political Editor

THE LABOUR PARTY machine is turning the screw on its new MPs, issuing "contracts" which stipulate that they should spend 100 hours a year "blitzing" constituents' homes - with a target of 26,000 households to be visited by the time of the next

The "contract", which suggests the party is laying the groundwork for a three-year election campaign from June next year, is backed by the implicit threat that if MPs do not meet their targets, they cannot expect the advice, support and resources of the national party

to back them. provoking unrest among the some latitude - the "contracts"

MPs, some of whom believe that provide a "toolbox of best practhe party was pushing them too far. One MP said: "This is yet another attack on the integrity

of the House of Commons. "It is another distressing attempt by the Government to control MPs and turn them into an election machine, when what the MPs should be doing is acting as a check on the Government."

While some MPs told the Independent that they supported the idea of the contract, others said it was "threatening"; "wrong", or "plain daft". Labour MPs elected before 1997 will be stunned by the audacity of the discipline now being demanded of their new colleagues.

Although it would appear The idea of the contract is that the MPs are being offered

tice," according to one document - there is an insistence that the MPs and their local parties should be prepared and ready

for a big political push next year. One document seen by the Independent says: "The 'contracts' are designed to help our seats with new MPs get to the strongest possible position by June 1999, from when we envisage being able to focus our resources much more heavily on

the next general election." It then adds: "In future, an extra criterion for discussions regarding targeting of resources will be how well advanced is the new MP's seat by June 1999."

Some of the outline demands made in the contract would make startling reading for Commons innocents. Under a heading of "voter contact pro-

The MP should be calling on voters at least one evening a week and spend half a day each weekend in direct contact with voters. We will target for the MP and party to contact a minimum of 100 households a week outside of 'election' periods - that's 26,000 households by 2002. The local party will also aim 10 do at least one evening

a week telephone work. The party will support the MP in their work of voter contact and will use national/regional scripts as a hasis for its coninct work.

"The MP and party should aim to blitz (knocking on votcrs' doors) for 2 hours a day for 46 weekends (or equivalent) a year, and for two weeks in the

Leading article, page 16

from birth to three years old. She was registered with two

partments have been trying Accused nanny may face new charges after baby's death A spokesman for the Met- 41, who is Dutch, and his and 1997. She was said to have

Diana Blamires

BABY whose Australian mny is in custody accused of rming her, died yesterday. Caroline longen, who was ir months old, was proimmeed dead at 5pm follow g a second round of brain

Caroline had been in a

the family home in Cricklewood in north-west London on

The namy, Louise Sullivan, 26, of Victoria, Australia, was remanded in custody for seven days on Monday after appearing before magistrates charged with causing grievous con tests, London's Great bodily harm to the buby. Carround Street Hospital said - oline had been in critical condition in intensive care.

Scotland Yard said the

would now be reviewed following Caroline's death.

"We will be reviewing them in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service in the light of the results of the postmortem examination when they are ready," said a Yard spokesman.

Detectives yesterday asked for parents and childcare agencies who had either employed or interviewed Ms Sullivan to

death said: "We would like to hear from anyone who has employed nanny Louise Sullivan either in Britain or Australia. We would like to speak

with anyone who interviewed her for a position or any nanny agencies who may know of Caroline's parents, invest-

ropolitan Police child protec- French wife Muriel, had been preferred looking after children tion unit investigating the at their daughter's hedside throughout the last five days. An ambulance was called to the nanny agencies in London spefamily's house on the morning of 17 April. Caroline was taken to the Royal Free Hospital and then transferred to Great Ormond Street where she was on a life support machine.

Ms Sullivan had reportedly worked as a nanny for agencies in Australia between 1991



ment company director Marcel, charges against Ms Sullivan come forward. WEATHER, P2 CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 FULL CONTENTS, P2 INSIDE GUIDE:

TOMORROW

50 books that have changed the world since 1945

College juniors: joining university at the age of 12

Name in lights: architect Norman Foster's illuminating designs



Foreign Theatre Fashion Features Leader & letters Comment Obituaries Business Shares



Beef-on-bone case thrown out by court

FARMERS were rejoicing last night after the first person in Britain to be prosecuted for allegedly flouting the

following a report by health officers with "renewed vigour". who turned up at a high-profile din-

ner he hosted for 180 guests five days after the han was imposed.

Sheriff James Paterson ruled that the regulations which Mr Sutherland was supposed to have contravened government's beef-on-the-bone ban were defective, a judgment hailed by had his case dismissed because the the National Farmers' Union (NFU) regulations were deemed defective. as a "victory for common sense". The Jim Sutherland, a 44-year-old National Federation of Meat and hotelier, was summoned to Selkirk Food Traders said it would now be Sheriff Court, in the Scottish Borders. calling for the repeal of regulations

December to reduce the risk of con- caused the problem, he said. "If I am tracting CJD, the human equivalent of mistaken and the word 'preparation' mad cow disease.

lations 1997 which led to yesterday's what does preparation mean? The case being dismissed, Sheriff Pater-word is so imprecise that it could son explained. He read out Regula-tion 3(2) which states that no person mating beef, tenderising beef, de-bon-Thus, in one shor shall use any bone-in-beef in the ing beef and so on." preparation of any food or ingredient for sale direct to the ultimate con- every caterer would, by merely chill- tem of meat distribution and

must be read as meaning something It was the definition of the words other than subjecting a carcass of beef contained in the Beef Bones Regutor cold, then the question arises

Sheriff Paterson concluded that

which Mr Sutherland was charged. The implication of Regulation 3(2) was to make the present distribution of beef from slaughterhouses to butchers and caterers illegal because all such meat should always be placed

Thus, in one short sentence, in a piece of subordinate legislation, Parliament has destroyed the present sys-

by its ban, which was introduced last sumer. The word "preparation" ing a carcass or part of a carcass of undermined one of the main purpases. beef, be guilty of the offence of of the Food Safety Act namely the protection of consumers from caling. bad meat," he said. "That is such a manifest absurdity that Regulation

3(2) must be defective." In a statement after the case, the Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham said: "This case turned on a legal technicality. The regulations are essential for the protection of public is health and they remain in force.

An appeal has been lodged.

Blair's new image -'Man of peace in pursuit of peace'

By Anthony Bevins Primosi Editor

TONY BLAIR vesterday dubbed himself "man of peace. in pursuit of peace" as he returned to London from Tel Aviv with strong assurances of new-found Israeli goodwill to-

At a Tel Aviv press conference, and in earlier talks with Mr Blair, the Israeli prime minister. Benjamin Netanyahu, said he hoped that progress could be made on substantive "larger issues" at next month's London meetings with Madeleine Albright the US Secretary of State, and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Au-

acknowledgement of the injustice being suffered by the people of Palestine, of whom there are 3,4 million scattered in refugee camps and elsewhere throughout the Middle East.

Mr Netanyahu said that while it would be wrong to raise expectations for London. "we all want to be able to surprise ourselves". Mr Blair commented at a joint press conference: "If we can surprise ourselves in the expectations, let

It was said authoritatively yesterday that the Americans

had not expected the promise of substantive talks on an Israeli redeployment from the occupied West Bank - and they were now pressing home the need for the new momentum to be maintained at, and possibly heyond.

During the press conference wards the Middle East peace Mr Netanyahu said that while Israeli redeployment was part of a "whole cluster of obligations" to which both sides would have to contribute, the Israelis were prepared to do our part if the Palestinians do their part".

The Israeli prime minister

was asked by The Independent how he felt about the injustice now being perpetrated against the people of Palestine - just as Britain had once perpetrated injustice against the people of Is-He also delivered a most rare racl. Replying to what he called a loaded question. Mr Netanvahu said: "Yes, there has been great suffering for the Palestinians. He then described Israeli suffering over the last 50 years and added: "There has been a persistent failure to truly accept that Israel has suffered which, as it happens, is beginning to fade away."

Mr Blair later visited a school in Tel Aviv where he wrote a Hebrew phrase in the visitors' book - "Ohev shalom. verodev shalom" - translated by No 10 as "Man of peace, in pur-



Around about on the road: Dr Geraint Evans practises riding his powered monowheel Photograph: Chris Ison/West news Service

Georgia deal to ditch deadly nuclear legacy

concern in the West, largely because of the risk that it would end up in the hands of lerrorpotentially hostile, such as Iran. next few days.

The Caucasus republic sits at . the heart of an unstable region. Paramilitary groups abound and a variety of weapons can be with Russia. To the north-west is Ahkhazia, locked in an inde-

surface in nearby Dagestan, Ossetia. Nor can Georgia, ty committee. which erupted in civil war after claim to be stable. Two mouths age President Eduard Shevardnadze escaped death when second attempt on his life in three years.

Georgia has made little secret of its possession of the nuclear materials or of its desire to get rid of them. They come 1959 and used for research by

It shut for safety reasons atter the Chernohyl disaster in 1986 Sources in Georgia yes-THOUGH small, Georgia's nu- terday confirmed that a highly clear legacy has long caused sensitive operation to package and remove the material - reportedly code-named Auturn Endeavour - was under way and ists or nations considered to be , should be completed in the

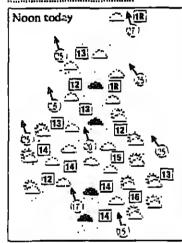
Officials bave been anxious to keep the project under wraps. although rumours have been flying in Toilisi since the arrival of bought and sold easily. To the US military transport aircraft, north is Chechnya, turbulent which are expected to be used and unpredictable after its war " to fly the materials to Douareay." "If there is secrecy, it is be-

cause the Americans want it. pendence struggle with Tbilisi since this involves the theve-Ethnic tensions frequently, ment of uranium, said Rezo Adamia, head of Georgia's par-Ingushetia and north and south liamentary defence and securi-

Assessments differ of the the Soviet Union collapsed; threat the cache could pose, It reportedly comprises 9.5lb of highly enriched uranium-235 and nearly 21h of spent nuclear his motorcade was attacked, the - fuel. A US expert on the former. Soviet nuclear programme, William Potter, last year claimed it could be used in a

weapons programme: The New York Times said yesterday that, while US officials from an old reactor 12 miles maintain there is not enough for from Toilisi which was built in a bomb, private experts say that it could be used to make a the Georgian Institute of weapon equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT

WEATHER



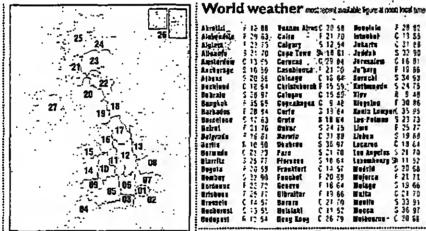
Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have rain. aithough brighter weather will spread across the west of Northern Ireland, Eastern Scotland, together with the western half of England and Wales will also be cloudy with hursts of rain spreading enahoally eastwards. Meanwhile, central and eastern parts of England will have a warm day with hazy conshine, but one or two local heavy chowers are possible in the afternoon, and ram will be approaching from the west in the evening.

Outlook for the next few days Torrignow will be bright in the west with curry spells and showers. Eastern areas will have roun at first, but diversing profiles weather will opread from the west On Enday, an Atlantic depression will push rain northeastwards over most of the UK, followed by curstone and showers in the west. The weekend will also be unceitled with low pressure domination the weather. nut temperatures should remain above average.

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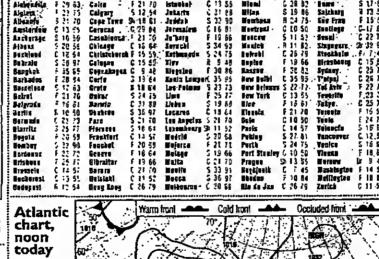
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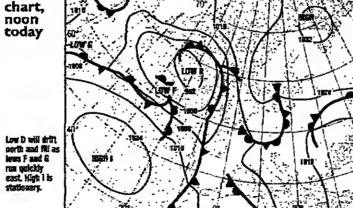


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MICHAEL **HANLON** WEATHER WISE-

LAST WEEK it was reported that a chunk of the Larsen B ice shelf, attached to the eastern coast of the mountainous Antarctic Peninsula (the bit that juts up towards South America and which used to be claimed by Britain), had started to drift away from the confinent into the Southета Осеап.

This could be had news. Although the warming figures . for the past few decades are any effect on global sea levpretty trivial averaged over the whole globe, something odd does seem to be going on in those parts of the Antarctic which have seen much greater rises in temperature al but temporary changes in than elsewhere.

On the Peninsula, average temperatures have risen by 2.5C in the past 50 years or so.

The Antarctic ice acts as a huge damper mechanism, a heat sink, its very permanence through summer and winter - unlike the Arctic pack ice which breaks up to summer - acts as an anchor for the winds and ocean currents across a good chunk of the placer ...

If Antarctica starts thawing out, expect to see some drastic effects, particularly on the huge ocean currents, such as the North Atlantic Drift, which keep our isles much warmer than they have any right to be.

It's probably wise not to panic yet. however. Larsen B is a piddling little ice shelf, as Antarctic ice shelves go (the piece that has broken off is about the same size as Islington). Its melting won't have cls because ice shelves float. and so have a neutral effect on the level of the sea, and the ice chunk's detachment may have more to do with unusuocean currents than in permanent climate shifts.

It surely can't be long before someone blames El Niño.

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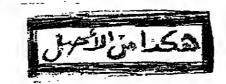
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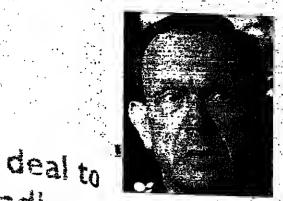
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Grampian police chief stands his ground



Crime Correspondent

of beleaguered Grampian Chief parture date from 31 August. Constable Ian Oliver rook anresignation.

But last night, Mr Oliver who had already resisted an un-Dewar, the Secretary of State solved. for Scotland, to "pack his bag

and go", was still clinging on to his post, although he is said to have offered to bring forward THE stand-off over the future : his previously agreed official de-

in a day of mounting frusother dramatic form yesterday tration and unger, the when his own police board Grampian police board passer demanded his immediate a vote of no confidence in their chief constable and set a 2pm deadline for him to state his position. That came and went precedented call from Donald without anything being re-

But one man who did resign

in the course of the afternoon. it was reported, was councillor Duncan Crawford, who had led the unanimous call at the po-

Mr Crawford, a former poceman, said he was giving up is place on the board in disgust. He said the Chief Constable was departure. He added that Mr Oliver had treated the people of the north-east of Scotland with "absolute contempt", and

lice board for Mr Oliver's res-

and democratic accountability".

Meanwhile, in the House of Commons, Mr Dewar faced questions about the extraordinary affair including the public of failures and neglect. slanging match between himself and Mr Oliver. He was also asked what procedures have to trying to broker a deal about his be followed for a Chief Constable to be sacked.

Mr Oliver had come under attack following a report by an outside force, Lothian and Bor-

seemed unable to differentiate der, under Deputy Chief Con- er had mounted a robust pubbetween "political interference stable Graham Power, into lie defence of the force's actions Grampian's handling of the investigation into the murder of a nine year old boy. The report accused the force of a catalogue

> Mr Oliver, his deputy David Beattie and assistant Peter Wilson were asked to leave the board meeting at midday as it went into private session. None of the three were prepared to comment, in marked contrast to the previous day when Mr Oliv-

during the inquiry into the death of nine-year-old Scott

The Chief Constable will next month, but will remain gust which prevents his successor from taking over until September.

Frank Doran, the constimency MP for Scon Simpson's parents Dennis and Patsy, in the public interest."

called for the law to be changed to enable the Chief Constable to be dismissed more easily. He has written to Mr Dewar calling for a review of the law. He said: "If the police hoard and cease his duties from the end of the Secretary of State agree that a chief officer has permitted a technically in post until 31Au- culture in which incompetence and maladministration are evident, as indicated in the report into the handling of the Scott Simpson case, they should eb able to act swiftly and decisively

s and

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End of line for the man who backed family values

THE BEST advice for anyone trying to understand the Murdoch family would be to take a look at its roots, writes Paul McCarm. Keith Rupert Murdoch is the grandson of a Scottish Presbyterian minister.

The grandsons of the Kirk are neither temperamentally nor theologically ostentations types and it is this streak which seems to have dominated Murdoch family affairs.

Despite the usual behaviour of millionaire businessmen in relation to their younger female employees there was no unseemliness in Rupert's marriage to Anna Tory. At least he was already divorced for two years when he met and married the diary columnist on his Sydney Daily Mir-

Anna, the daughter of a Scottish mother and Estonian father who had emigrated to Australia when she was in her teens, soon gave up her journalism to have children and has been quoted as saying: "I don't think two people with pow-erful career drives can live comfortably together."

Even when years later she took creative writing classes and tried writing a novel Rupert was damning in his criticism and almost put her off pus television station. for life. Mostly she has devoted herself to bring up her children: Elisabeth, 29, Lachlan, 26, and .

And very nicely brought up they were too. In the very best schools in London, New York and Los Angeles but with elements of Presbyterian normality thrown in.

Daddy would reputedly insist on their ence dressed and washed at breakfast every of Harvard. However, now even he has returned morning at 6 am before he went to work or jetted of around the globs. And dispose the like - ruedia. lihood of one day inheriting an estimated £200 they had to get themselves summer jobs for pocket money.

Reports of teenage rebellion are whispered of - Elisabeth left one of her expensive schools by mutual agreement, she didn't like them, and they thought her a little wild.

According to one biography when they were teenagers James and Lachian were caught by Rupert watching what he described as "pornographic" films which worried him. In fact the

IN THE NEWS

THE MURDOCH DYNASTY

film was no more adult than most of Daddy's Twentieth Century Fox output.

All now all have eventually entered the family business. Most famously Lachlan Murdoch. who is current favourite to take over the dynasty. After studying at Princeton, Lachlan worked his way up the ladder, starting out as general manager of News Corp's Queensland Newspaper diision where he was famed for starting work as early as his father and is currently in charge of the corporation's entire Australian operations.

Elisabeth reportedly owes her place as a runner for the top job to her mother. It was Anna who forced Rupert to consider placing his daughter as well as his sons in the race for succession. Elisabeth went to Vassar in the United States,

where she was instrumental in setting up a cam-She did an 18-month stint with her husband,

Elkin Pianim, running two Californian TV stations bought with a loan from papa and selling them for \$12m profit.

Anna's youngest son James first looked like making the biggest break with the empire. Complete with pierced ear, he ran a record label specialising in Hip Hop music after dropping out to the fold as vice-president for music and new

And low-profile Prudence - the daughter from Rupert's marriage to first wife Patricia - is connected. She is married to Alasdair MacLeod, circulation and sales director of the Times.

Recently the only worries for this close-knit. competitive family were rumours about Elisabeth's marriage being on the rocks. But now it seems that not even close family members are immune from the barn-out that affects those who live too closely to Rupert Murdoch.



Murdoch dynasty: Prudence, Anna, Elisabeth, James and Lachlan, with a girlfriend; (below) baby Elisabeth and her parents Main photograph: Big Pictures



MISTAKEN IDENTITY Shortly after the couple's move

to London in the early Sevendes when Murdoch had just taken over the News of the World, two hrothers, Nizamodeen and Arthur Hoseln, planned to kidnap Anna Murdoch and demand a fim ransom. Instead they bungled the attempt and snatched Muriel McKay, the wife of the chairman of the News of the World. Mrs McKay was never found and police believed she was murdered and fed to the pigs on the brothers' farm.

MEDIA TALE

Anna Murdoch wrote a novel entitled Family Business and is three or more production errors believed to have used scenes

drawn from her husband's takeover of the News of the World. It tells the story of a woman who inherits a media business and turns it into an empire. Ironically, she then sells up when her children start bickering over their inheritance.

IN THE GENES While she looks like her mother, Elisabeth Murdoch inherited her ruthlessness from her father. While running a California television station she made 18 of

the 74 staff redundant and issued a "three-strikes" memo threatening sackings if there were during newscasts.

Paul McCartney tells of final moments at wife's bedside



ady McCartney photographed at her East Sussex home by daughter Mary a few days before her final trip to the US

SIR PAUL McCartney has paid tribute to his wife Linda's enormous courage in campaigning for vegetarianism and in her battle against cancer, writes Diana

In the first detailed statement since her death last week, he has also spoken of the final moments at her bedside.

The former Beatle's personal statement about his wife of 29 years reads: "This is a total heartbreak for my family and I. Linda was, and still is, the love of my life, and the past two years we spent battling her disease have been a nightmare.

"She never complained and always hoped to be able to

conquer it. It was not to be. Our beautiful children - Heather, Mary, Stella and James - have been an incredible strength during this time, and she lives on in all of them.

"The courage she showed to fight for her causes of vegetarianism and animal welfare was unbelievable.

"How many women can you think of who would singlehandedly take on opponents like the Meat and Livestock Commission, risk being laughed at, and yet succeed? "People who didn't know her

well, because she was a very private person, only ever saw the tip of the iceberg. She was the

kindest woman I have ever met: the most innocent.

"All animals to her were like Disney characters and worthy of love and respect. She was the toughest woman who didn't give a damn what other people

"She found it hard to be impressed by the fact that she was Lady McCartney. When asked whether people called her Lady McCartney, she said 'Somebody once did - I think.

"I am privileged to have been her lover for 30 years, and in all that time, except for one enforced absence, we never spent a single night apart.

"When people asked why,

we would say - 'What for?' "As a photographer there are few to rival her. Her pho-

tographs show an intense honesty, a rare eye for beauty. "As a mother she was the best. We always said that all we wanted for the kids was that they would grow up to have

good hearts; and they have. "Our family is so close that her passing has left a huge hole in our lives. We will never get over it. but I think we will

come to accept it. "The tribute she would have liked best would he for people to go vegetarian, which, with the vast variety of foods available these days is much easier than

hat if something goes wrong

many people think. She got when she crossed over. They into the food business for one each were able to tell her how reason only, to save animals from the cruel treatment our society and traditions force up on your beautiful Appaloosa

"Anyone less likely to be a husinesswoman I can't think of, vet she worked tirelessly for the the sky is clear blue'. rights of animals, and became a food tycoon.

"When told a rival firm had

copied one of her products, all she would say was 'Great, now I can retire'. She wasn't in it for the money.

"In the end, she went quicksurrounded by her loved ones.

of the sentence, when she closed her eyes, and gently slipped away. She was unique and the

much they loved her.

"Finally I said to her: 'You're

stallion; it's a fine spring day,

we're riding through the woods.

The hluebells are all out, and

"I had barely got to the end

world is a better place for having known her. "Her message of love will

iv with very little discomfort, and live on in our hearts forever." The statement is signed: "I "The kids and I were there love you Linda. Paul xxx xxx".

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Nurses warn over plans to charge for accidents

Health Editor

NURSES warned yesterday that government plans to raise millions of pounds by charging for the cost of treating road accident victims could add to patients' distress and undermine the principle of a free

Patients were frequently upset when they received demands for payments from hospitals for emergency treatment after an accident, It attempts to recover the costs from insurance companies were stepped up. it would start the NHS on the slippery slope towards an insurancebased service, the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress in Bournemouth was told.

Sheila Maye from Doneaster said: "The NHS is supposed to be free at the point of need. We should not be talking about recovering the costs from people who need the treatment. We should be talking about adequate funding of the service."

Under a little known provision of the Road Traffic Act 1988, hospitals are entitled to charge the drivers of vehicles involved in road accidents. £21,30 for emergency treatment of each person injured, which can be reclaimed from insurance companies. They are also entitled to claim up to (2449 for in-parient treatment and up) to £295 for out-patient treatment from the driver's insurance company.

Many NHS trusts do not bother to claim the money and latest figures show £9m is raised - 12 per cont of the total that could be claimed, Leicester Royal Infirmary raised the most, at £365,000, but some London teaching hospitals raised nothing

In guidance issued last December. the health department ordered NHS trusts to step up their efforts to recoup the money. Ministers also signalled their intention to waive the £21,30 fee but to raise limits on the amounts that can be claimed from

insurance companies to reflect the true cost of treating accident victims. and to change the law to require the companies to pay up without waiting for a claim.

There are 320,000 serious traffic accidents each year, which costs the NHS over £100m. Nurses at the congress warned that if the whole of this cost were shifted to the insurance companies, it would trigger a sharp rise in premiums.

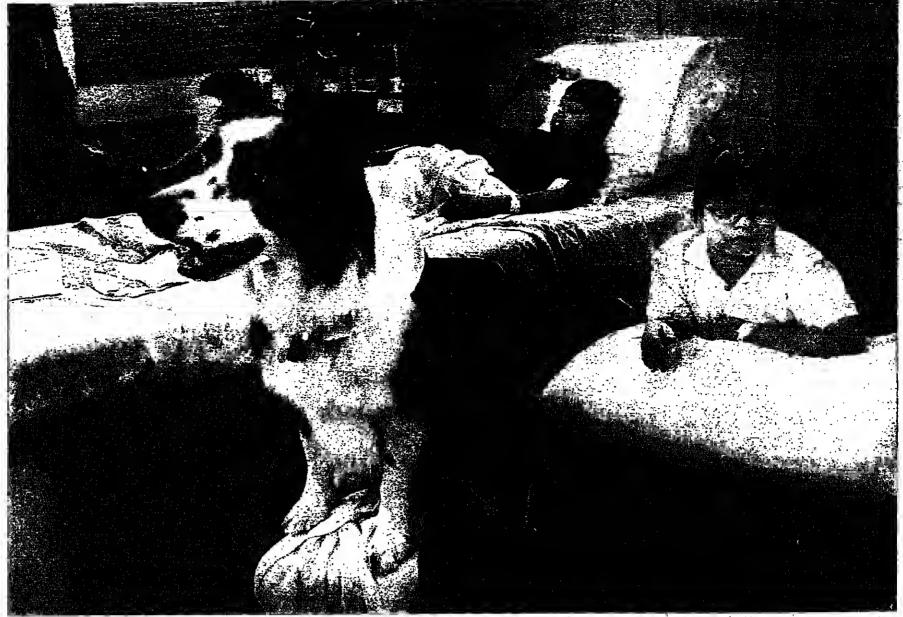
Derek Blackshaw, a nurse consultant and expert witness in accident cases, said: "Is this the thin end of the wedge towards an insurancebased Health Service? It could be a way of resourcing the trauma

He said he had been involved in the case of a young man who had been in treatment for five years at a cost of £900 a week after being hit by a cur while crossing the road. "It was not his fault. If the cost doesn't come from the insurance company it will come from the NHS."

Other speakers described the distress that a demand for payment caused accident victims, Paul Cassidy. from north Lincolnshire, said he had seen patients come into his hospital and fling the money at the receptionist. "Accidents happen, I don't think we should charge for accidents. The victims are affected mentally and physically and I don't think they should be affected financially."

A spokeswoman for the Health Department said legislation to ensure recovery of the money from insurance companies would be introduced when parliamentary time allowed. A simple tariff would be devised aimed at recouping the full cost of treating accident victims by averaging it across all cases.

Nurses are demanding panic alarms, security guards and training in self-defence to cope with rising violence on hospital wards. Verbal and physical assaults are commonplace and hospitals are doing too little to protect their staff, delegates said.



Just the tonic: Tanner, a border collie stands guard after playing with Tom, II, (right) and Mohamed, I0, (in bed), who are receiving treatment in the haemo-dialysis unit at Guy's hospital in London, where a conference yesterday was told that taking animals into wards can hasten patients' recovery

Sick children pepped up by animal magic

By Linus Gregoriadis

TAKING animals into hospital wards helps children get better faster, it was claimed yesterday.

Speaking at Guy's Hospital, at the launch of a conference on animal therapy, the entertainer Rolf Harris told how tour-legged creatures can speed up the treatment of sick humans.

He said: "It makes a tremendous difference to the kids to be able to have animals brought in. It gives them a sense of reality, in a funny

hecoming aware of the role that animals can have and all of its benefits. The kids just forgot themselves. They can be in here a long time for treatment and it makes it go so pain."

quickly." The presenter of BBC1's.Animal Hospital told how his passionate interest in the treatment was sparked by the sight of a young patient's reaction to a dog.

He said: "There was one partieular Bosnian boy who was in ahsolute agony. He could not get out of bed to do his physio treatment.

reminded him of his pet back home tals - to help terminally ill children. ents alike are constantly seeking the and he could then do his physio. It just delights the kids and takes fully screened for infection before to help the child through trauma." entering the wards, adding: "What their minds off the misery of the we need to do is remain professional

Doctors and animal therapy experts were among conference delegates at the London hospital yesterday for the event which was organised by the Children in Hospital and Animal Therapy Association (Chata).

Sandra Stone, a former nurse and the charity's founder, said she initially set up the scheme -which

and keep our standards of excel-Mary Whyham, from the Society for Companion Animal Studies. said the conference would provide

an important insight into animalassisted therapy. She said: "Children undergoing surgery and long-term hospitalisa-

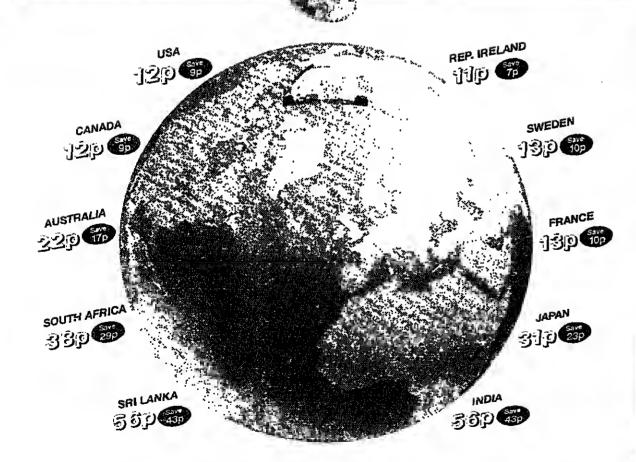
tion often feel frightened and vul-

"More and more people are But when he saw the dog it is now operating in several hospi- nerable, and hospital staff and par-She said that animals were care - most sensitive and comfortable way

> Rolf Harris took two dogs - a border collie and a labrador - into the haemo-dialysis ward, where teenagers are awaiting transplants or who have had transplant complications.

> Michelle Anderson, 16, from south-west London, told of the benefits of the contact with animals. "It's brilliant when the animals come. It's only once a week, but we all look forward to it," she said.

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Knives found in murder suspect raid

KNIVES, a sword and an air gun were hidden in the home of two brothers suspected of being implicated in the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence, the inquiry into his racist stabbing was told yesterday.

But the dawn raid in May 1993 on the house where Neil and Jamie Acourt lived with their mother in Eltham, south London, was two weeks after the killing - so it was unlikely to produce the murder weapon, the officer in charge of the search told the hearing.

Stephen, an 18-year-old schoolboy, was killed in a racially-motivated attack in Eltham in April 1993.

Detective Sergeant David Kirkpatrick told the inquiry at the Elephant and Castle, south London that he did not know why the search was not ordered within days of the killing. He said a knife was discov-

ered behind the television in Neil Acourt's bedroom. In another room, a knives were found, plus a hlood-stained

Ulster shooting victim dies

A CATHOLIC council worker shot in Portadown, Co Armagh, died in hospital last night. He was shot in a council skip yard by a inne gunman who rode up on a hicycle, selected his victim and opened fire at close range before fleeing. The victim, in his 30s. was hit in the head and body and was taken to the nearby Craigavon

Wildcat strike closes Calais

A WILDCAT strike by French seafarers closed the port of Calais yesterday, bringing travel chaos to British travellers and truckers.

Three ferries run by the newly formed joint company P&O Stena Line were unable to dock at Calais because of the action. The ferries had to return to Dover and from early afternoon the company instead ran services from Dover to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

Hoffman daughter guilty

THE adopted daughter of American film star Dustin Hoffman was yesterday ordered to carry out 180 hours of community service after she admitted embezzling more than £5,000 while working for a British company. Karina Hoffman-Birkhead. 32, of Mildenhall, Suffolk, pleaded guilty at Newmarket magistrates.

Mr Gordon Taylor

A REFERENCE in the Mystic Deb column last week to the Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers Association admitting having taken kickbacks was entirely fictional and intended as a joke. We regret if it was read seriously in any way, and apologise to Mr Taylor for any emharrassment caused. A donation has been made to the PFA Benevolent Fund.

Naval officer wins £125,000 for sex bias

A:NAVAL officer who failed to get promotion because she did 2 not go to sea was yesterday awarded £125,000 compensa-

Chief Petty-Officer Pauline Telfer was passed over for the rank uf warrant officer despite being recommended for the post four years running. An industrial tribunal panel ruled that the Royal Navy had discriminated against her because it selected sea-going ratings over her.

CPO Teffer joined the Navy as a Wren in 1972 hefore women were able to go to sea, but in 1990 policy was changed to allow female ratings to serve at sea. Existing Wrens were allowed to volunteer, but also permitted to continue their service on the same terms as before.

CPO Telfer, 42, told the tribunal that she never volunteered because she had already been told she was eligible to be a warrant officer. She was unaware she would be discriminated against for not volunteering for sea service and had she known she would have gone to sea to gain promotion.

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New digs for an old Digger

FOLLOWING vesterday's news of Rupert Murdoch's separation from his wife. Pandora can reveal that the media tycoon primarily based in Los Angeles and New York until now has found new digs a block from the White House in Washington DC. The flat-hunting was completed in strict secrecy two weeks ago by Sunday Times columnist and Murdoch's "economic guru", Irwin Steltzer. The location is convenient to Rupert's favourite restaurant in the capital. Les Halles, but Washington insiders doubt he is planning to spend more time in the capital strictly for gourmet reasons. Steltzer, a very wealthy man, is one of Murdoch's closest friends and a long-time As-pen neighbour. Thus the new bachelor's move to Washington makes sense on grounds of friendly companionship alone. But there is also a rumour Murdoch has his acquisitive eye on the Moony-owned Washington Times. Although this would give him daily access to the most powerful politicians in his adopted country, there is no evidence that the Times is for sale. Pandora expects that Murdoch's true motives for setting up house near the Potomac will become clear sooner rather than later.

Mandelson's anniversary ode

NEW LABOUR is going to celebrate the anniversary of its first year in power with a gala dinner, hosted by Mo Mowlam, in Newcastle on 1 May. A colleague of Pandora's rang Millbank and asked what entertainment would be provided on the big night out. Last year's election night victory celebration, you may recall, featured the pop group D-Ream singing "Things can only get Better". This year, according to the Labour spokesperson, "Peter Mandelson will be giving a speech." Tony Blair, unfortunately, will be "off-message" that evening, as he must attend a pre-summir dinner for EU finance ministers in Brussels. Other ministers should be warned that such a flimsy excuse will not suffice to absolve them should they dare to miss Mandy's superb oration.

Voice of Fayed's regal return

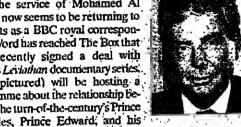
MICHAEL COLE, having relired from the service of Mohamed Al Faved, now seems to be returning to his roots as a BBC royal correspondent. Word has reached The Box that Cole recently signed a deal with BBC2's Leviathan documentary series. Colc (pictured) will be hosting a programme about the relationship between the turn-of-the-century's Prince

magic

Mayal officer

A 17 2125,00

for sex blas



of Wales, Prince Edward, and his bride. Princess Alexandra. According to Neil Cameron, editor of Leviathan, "Cole obviously sees parallels between Edward and Alexandra and Prince Charles and Princess Diana, between the two princes' infidelity and the two princesses' loneliness." Anyone who watched Cole's television performance when he assured the world that his boss had been privy to the dying princess's so-called "last words" must wonder just what the devil is the BBC playing at here.

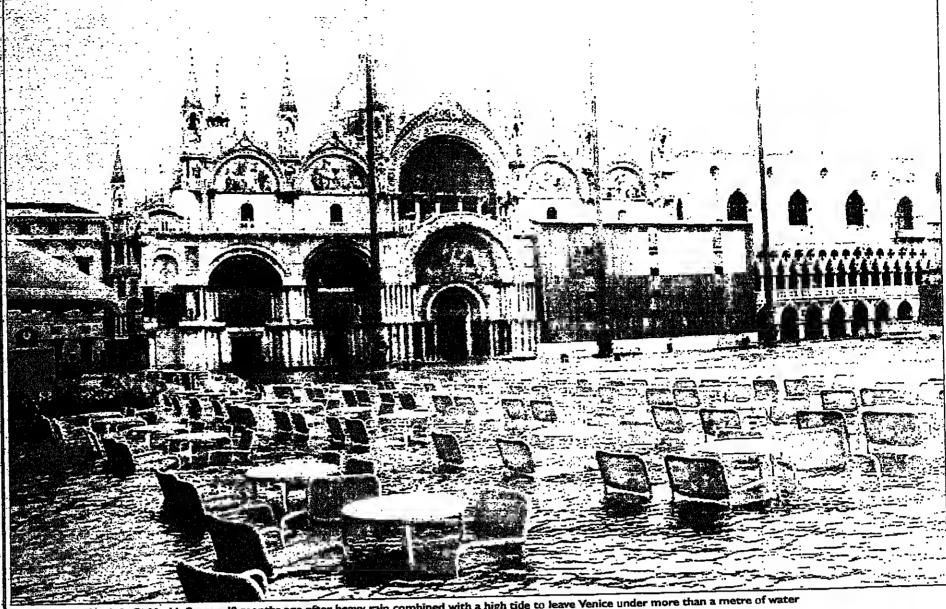
Time for a quick nuke

THERE are times when carefully measured, supposedn assuring words can strike more dread than calm into a listener. Such a time occurred on Monday in the House of Lords. Responding to a question from Lord Jenkins of Purney about discussions between the Government and the Americans on nuclear weapons in the Gulf, Lord Gilbert, Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, replied: Your Lordships may be relieved to know that Her Majesty's Government are not engaged in planning any nuclear wars at this time." But what

Jacko going underground

LIKE Rupert Murdoch, the controversial rock star Michael Jackson has been house-hunting recently. In Jackson's case, the new neighbourhood is on the posh East Side of Manhattan. Having examined the \$30m (£18m) former Vanderbilt home on 62nd Street, with its 14 maids' rooms, 17 fireplaces and unique children's floor with its own stage, the begloved king of NeverNever Land pronounced himself well pleased - except for the house's lack of a private back entrance. According to New York magazine, negotiations have been launched to acquire the house across the street so that a tunnel can be dug between the two, allowing Jackson a secret escape passage.

Pandora



Venice historian attacks Italian delay

By Michael McCarthy Environment Correspondent

VISCOUNT Norwich: chairil Fund, yesterday attacked the Italian government's delay in dealing with the threat to Venice from world-wide sealevel rise, terming it "unac-

He spoke out after a London seminar organised by the fund in which the danger to the city from the world's rising waters was spelt out in detail, and contrasted with steps that other maritime cities, including. London, have already taken to protect themselves.

Lord Norwich - who as the historian John Julius Norwich is Venice's chronicler - said that the Italian government had reman of Britain's Venice in Per- . cently put back for a further nine months the long-awaited decision to proceed with its system of massive sea gates to control tidal surges into the city, which was first proposed in 1973.

"They did say they would give us a firm decision by 30 June this year, and this has now been postponed," he said. "I now assume the date to be 31 March 1999, when we will get a definitive undertaking by the Italian government, which will first of all say exactly what it pro-

poses to do, and then begin to

However, Lord Norwich said, something needed to be done "on a very large and important scale in the very near future". He went on: "We are forced to admit that 32 years on [from the devastating flood of 1966] nothing has yet heen created and Venice is sull as vulnerable. This is obviously an unacceptable situation."

The Venice in Peril Fund. which is the British Committee for the Preservation of Venice, was founded as a direct result of the udal flood of 4/5 November 1966, which inundated the whole city. It has hitherto

spent its energies on restoration, helping work on more than 20 of the city's greatest monu-

ments. Yesterday's seminar was a departure, and not only in a scientific direction: it had an unaimed at spotlighting the dangers of further delay in facing the threat of a rising sea level.

A succession of experts. headed by Sir John Houghton. chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and the man leading the UN's scientific investigation of climate change, spelt out how the sea-level rise predicted for the next 50-100 years because

of global warming could bring flooding on a daily basis. Professor Trevor Davies.

head of the climatic research unit at the University of East Anglia, said that quite apart from sea-level rise. Venice's mistakable political thrust, position at the top of the Adriatic makes it particularly vulnerable to storm surges, while David Wilkes, the man in charge of London's Thames Barrier, and Marinus van the inevitable and growing dan-Zetten, his equivalent from Rotterdam, explained how their

> set up their flood defences. Professor Edmund Penning-Rowsell from the University of to a speedy decision over the Middlesex, who - as reported in protection of the city."

respective cities had already

yesierday's Independent - believes Venice's sea-gates scheme will he a waste of money, had a frank exchange of views with Roberto Frassetto, the oceanographic engineer who helped design it. "I hope it will proceed," Dr Frasseno said.

In a statement after the meeting, the fund said: "Venice in Peril and all the participants at this symposium emphasise gers in not confronting the risk to Venice, one of mankind's most extraordinary and beautiful creations, and they urge the Italian government to come

Hoddle kicks off song for the World Cup

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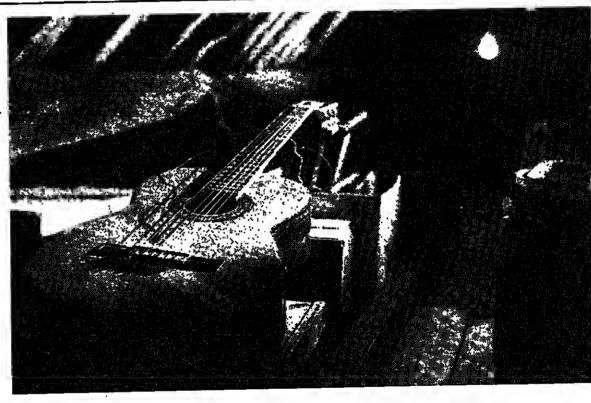
THE song which it will be impossible to avoid this summer s unveiled today.

England's anthem for the World Cup, teaming the unlikely combination of indie hands and the Spice Girls, hits the radio airwaves this morning before its formal launch at Wembley Stadium when England play Portugal tonight.

"On Top of the World" is an upbeat number with what one record company executive described as a jaunty chorus. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who has brought in a Scene, but no footballers.

assist his side, said he hoped it would be at least as successful as "Three Lions", the Skinner and Baddiel Euro 96 hit with the Lightning Seeds. " 'On Top Of The World' is where we want to he on 12 July (World Cup final day)." he said. The song was originally penned by the Smiths' guitarist Johnny Marr and Ian McCulloch of Echo and the

Bunnymen five years ago. Today's version was written by McCulloch, who performs on it alongside the Spice Girls. Tommy Scott from Space and Simon Fowler of Ocean Colour



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Old Labour hits back on union law

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

OLD Labour reasserted itself yesterday rejecting a compromise on the controversial issue of trade union rights tabled by the TUC leader John Monks.

Mr Monks came under fire from his closest colleagues and a senior Labour MP for offering to strike a deal with the Prime Minister over the proposed law on union recognition. Mr Monks was the subject of veiled attacks in public and more strident displeasure in private for allegedly exceeding his authority by conceding that a simple ballot majority would be insufficient to enforce collective bargaining at the workplace.

In an attempt to come to an accommodation with Tony Blair. he suggested that 30 per cent of the whole workforce would need to support recognition - not just a simple majority of those voting. However, union leaders yesterday insisted that no such policy had been endorsed by the TUC's ruling general council or the "inner circle" of senior trade unionists who have been involved in talks with ministers.

And at its annual conference in Perth, the Scottish TUC yesterday refused to endorse the 30 per cent formula - a position also adopted in a speech to delegates by Ian Davidson MP, Secretary of the Trade Union group

of backbench Labour MPs. The dour proceedings at the conference were enlivened by an address from Brian Souter. a former busman and now chairman of Stagecoach Holdings, owner of privatised bus and

The version of the 'Red Flag' sung by Brian Souter to the STUC conference: At 18 years I made a start, wis in

A big conductress said tae me. best be a union member. The meetings wir at dead o'night The shop sceward he wis

But boy could he negotiate He could cut the hours and raised the rate New Labour his a wide appeal rae aw the posh an arty Am glad tae see that Donald's here, so raise yer hats and gie a

sent, tae gie us oor ain

it's guid o ye tae ask me here. despite being awfy wealthy Am sure that ye wid still agree it's better tae be healthy Jock Tamson's bairns are aw the

it's kind of yees tae lend an ear But keep the red flag flying here.

vate sector employer ever to address the Scottish TUC which is renowned for its solidly left-

Arguing for the legitimacy of union recognition. Mr Souter sang his own idiosyncratic ver-Party's anthem, to the raptur-

conference, said that Mr Monks had gone much further than his colleagues had intended.

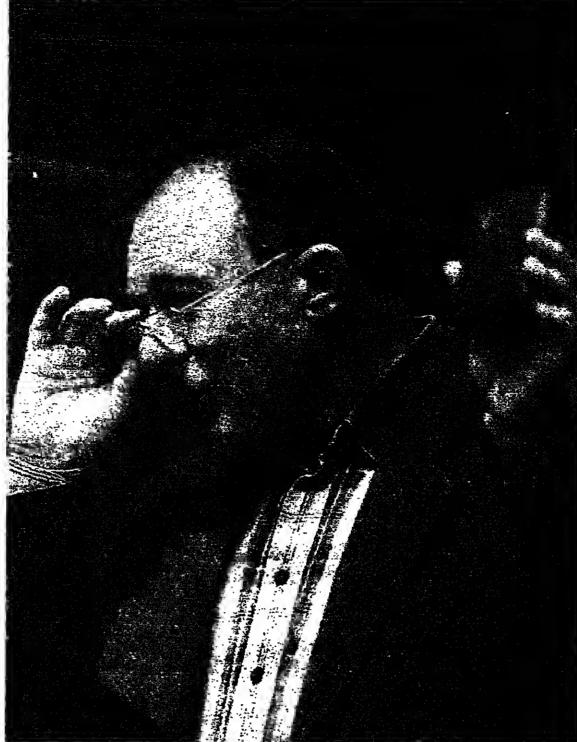
Old Labour anger may have been prompted largely by tactical rather than ideological considerations. One union general secretary conceded that the 30 per cent figure may be offered in discussions with ministers later this week in reply to a proposal by Downing Street that 40 per cent of any workforce would need to endorse recognition. The source indicated that Mr Monks may have revealed the TUC's likely negotiating hand too early.

Congress House, however, insisted that while Mr Monks' statement was not endorsed by a vote of the general council, it had been "nodded through". A TUC spokesman said that the brouhaha could be helpful because it showed that unions were unlikely to make any further concessions.

The TUC underlined the point by releasing an independently conducted survey showing that more than nine out of 10 Labour MPs backed the principal of a simple majority. At the Scottish TUC, Rod-

ney Bickerstaffe, leader of Unison, insisted that no compromise over recognition had been agreed at the TUC. Mr Bickerstaffe and Roger Lyons, leader of the MSF union both contended that a simple majority should be sufficient.

In an address to delegates, John Edmonds, General Secsion of the Red Flag, the Labour retary of the GMB general union, said that the TUC was ous applause of the delegates. prepared to be flexible, but One London-based union of- was not prepared to bend as far ficial, who was visiting the Perth as had been reported.



Singsong: Brian Souter, chairman of Stagecoach, showing off his TGWU credentials to the Scottish TUC. He sang a reworded version of the 'Red Flag', the anthem of the Labour Party and trade union movement

Party looks to business, not workers, for funds

Political Correspondent

TRADE-UNION funding will make up less than a third of Labour's income this year, Millbank officials said yesterday. While up to 80 per cent of Labour funds used to come from unions, the party's attempts to extricate itself from the relationship appeared to be paying off.

Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer. told the Neill Committee on political funding that projections showed 40 per cent of the party's £21m income this year would come from members' subscriptions and donations, 30 per cent from unions, 20 per cent from high-value donations and 10 per cent from activities such as trading.

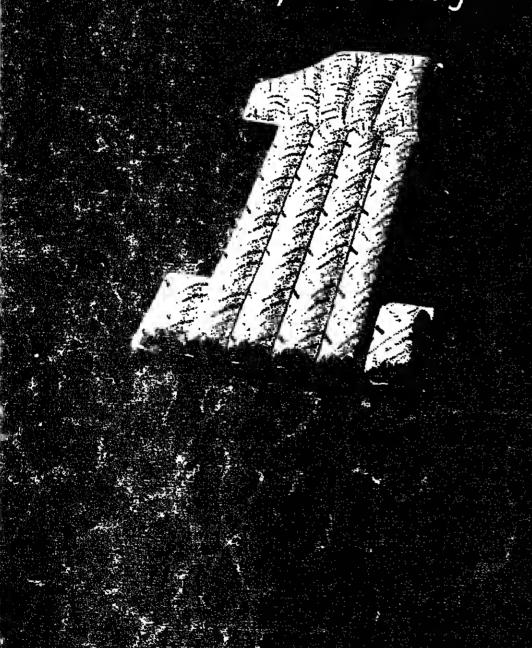
Figures released later showed union funding rose from £5.8m in 1994 to £9.6m last year but was expected to drop to £6.3m this year. Labour has been anxious to loosen its links with the unions, particularly as the dispute over recognition has progressed.

Lord Neill, the committee chairman, suggested Labour had not had difficulty raising funds in recent years. "There is no reason we are not talking about a shortage of funding." Mr Sawyer told him: "Modern political parties are medium-sized businesses and they need to be able to raise funds. We need the very best. We need the best policy officers to make our policies; we need the highest standards of IT and we need good staff".

Labour's expert adviser on political funding. Professor Keith Ewing, of King's College, London, suggested parties could face a five-year ban on television broadcasts if they failed to stick to a proposed £15m limit on election funding.

Lord Neill had suggested the limit might be difficult to police because, while individual candidates can lose their seats if they later turn out to have overspent under existing, local, rules, it would not be possible to overturn the outcome of a general

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Ahern says peace deal has something for all

BERTTE Ahern; the Irish Prime planning acts of terror to lay down their arms, saying the Northern Ireland Agreement eliminated even the most contrived case for violence.

At the start of a two-day parliamentary debate, Mr. Ahern also made an undisguised pitch for a "yes" vote at next month's Sinn Fein special conference on the agreement.

Mr Ahern's speech unequivocally reiterated assurances of consent to Unionists. It received a warm standing ovation from every corner of the.

the Good Friday accord, Mr

would constitute "the first concurrent act of self-determination by the people of Ireland since

Ahern said the dual referenda

carefully chosen to show the poll effectively matches the demand sion of national will. Mr Ahern said "such a vote

will remove any false vestige of democratic self-justification for further acts of violence from any quarter, republican or loyalist. All remaining paramilitary groups should cease armed action forthwith." He told Unionists that the

principle of consent would now we do not insist on press-gang-

ing those who are determined that they are not a part of the nation," he said. Mr Ahern said the input of

Ulster Unionist Party leader, His choice of precedent was . David Trimble, into the agreement had been "indispensable and courageous," while loyalfor all-Ireland democracy that ist leaders and the Womens' Sing Fein holds to be the is- Coalition helped bridge difland's only recent valid expres- ferences. He praised Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for 43 "commitment and persever-

The former taoiseach, John Bruton, leader of the main, Fine Gael, opposition, which is traditionally more accommodating towards Unionists, welcomed the agreement's Appealing to voters toback be paramount. "Henceforth, recognition of "the British and Irish identity of Unionists."

AME

Trimble given warning

By Colm Brown Chief Political Correspondent

ULSTER Unionist MPs last night warned they would oppose the peace settlement signed by David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, when the first phase of the deal is pushed through the Commons today.

Some of Mr Trimble's Ulster out against the deal during the party's ruling Ulster Unionist

set up the 108-seat power-sharing Northern Ireland assembly

Mr Trimble's party gave the deal an overwhelming support at the weckend but a majority of his MPs have criticised the package. His leadership was endorsed recently and cannot be challenged for a year, but his Unionist MPs will expose the MPs are not ruling out a possisplits in their party by speaking ble attempt to unseat him by the

one-day passage of the North-ern Ireland (Elections) Bill to our party," said one of Mr Trimble's senior colleagues. "And he is in a minority in his 😂

own parliamentary party. The Bill which will go through all its stages today will allow the assembly to be elected by single transferable vote in elections on 25 June. It will be followed by separate legislation to establish the Ulster assembly, if there is a "yes" vote to endorse the package on 22 May.

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Drug link to crime revealed in tests

Home Affairs Correspondent

MORE than 60 per cent of criminal suspects who agreed to be tested for illegal drugs proved positive, according to Home Office research revealed

In the Trafford area of Greater Manchester, 78 per cent of those tested had used

Howarth, said the research demonstrated the link between

The orders, which will begin in pilot form in September, ford 78 per cent, will force offenders to undergo. A similar study in the Unitwill force offenders to undergo treatment for their addiction or else be sent to prison.

clear its commitment to breaking the vicious circle of drugs and crime," said Mr Howarth: common in Britain than the US, Fast-track treatment will be tough on the causes of drugrelated crime."

Nearly 20 per cent of those tested in five areas across England and Wales during 1996-7 were using heroin, which Customs chiefs said last week was Home Office report released being imported in alarming yesterday. quantities. One in 10 of the suspects showed positive for users need an average of

The research, based on urine tests, revealed traces of South Bank University. cannabls in 46 per cent of those

ace de

g for all

But Mike Goodman, direcbetween the soft drug and oth- sold on. er criminal activity. "Cannabis. The The This is a lihat 97 per link between its use and the by Mr Howarth

commitment of a crime, apart from some kind of lifestyle association," he said.

The study approached nearly 1,000 people arrested in the five police stations, selected to be "reasonably representative of urban Britain", said Flome Of-fice statistics chief Claris Nuttall:

Six hundred people agreed to be tested for a range of drugs. Most can only be detected in urine for a few days after use, The drugs minister, George: while cannabis stays in the system for three to four weeks.

The results for positive tests drugs and crime and showed a for any illegal drug were: Sunclear need for the Govern- derland 49 per cent, Nottingment's new Drug Treatment ham 56 per cent, Cambridge 68 per cent. Hammersmith, west London 73 per cent and Traf-

ed States found just 7 per cent of people arrested were using The Government has made heroin - compared to some 18 per cent in Britain.

Cannabis was also more where only one third of suspects

But 40 per cent of Americans arrested had used cocaine. The total cost of drug-relat-

ed acquisitive crime was estimated at £2.5bn in a second Some 130,000 "problem"

£10,000 a year to feed their drug habits; said Michael Hough of They fund half of the £1.3bn

a year they spend on drugs through property crime but the tor of the drugs charity Release, goods they steal raise only onewarned against making a link third of their true worth when

stays in the system for up to 30 cent of drug users did not have days so the fact that it's been de- a problem with their drug use. tected does not show any causal a finding which was contested

Don't punish cannabis users, says BMA

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

THE BRITISH Medical Association yesterday threw its weight behind MPs who have been campaigning for cannabis to be legalised for therapeutic, use by urging the Home Secretary not to punish sufferers for taking the drug illegally.

A BMA team complained to a Lords committee investigating the scientific use of the drug that the Home Office appeared to be dragging its heels in li- 5 tobacco cigarettes and carries censing trials for developing drugs derived from cannabis. There had been no response to 14 requests for licences, the. peers were told. A

"If a patient is not suitable. for a trial, and there are no other alternatives available, then we' do believe they should be treated sympathetically in terms of the law and any penalty where they are using herbal cannabis for their own therapeutic benefit," Professor Vivienne Nathanson told the Lords years ago. committee on science and

technology. Professor Nathanson, head of the BMA's professional resources and research group, said she believed there could be a big worldwide demand for a cannabis-based drug which could relieve some of the symptoms of muscular dystrophy, muscle spasms, glaucoma, vomiting after chemotherapy and

chronic pain. "The numbers of patients who might benefit in a worldwide-context may be very con-

siderable," she said. The committee is focusing on the scientific value of developing cannabis, which it ficulties in establishing accurate heard had fallen out of use after the Victorian era, when newer drugs became available. to develop a roadside test for The BMA team told the peers drivers like the breath test for that once drugs were devel-

oped, it was likely they would be administered in the future by use of inhalers

But the BMA said smoking a cannabis joint could be five. times more carcinogenic than a tobacco cigarette. The BMA panel came down firmly against legalisation of cannabis for recreational use.

"Because of the way in which it is smoked, a single cannabis joint delivers the equivalent in carbon monoride, irritants and carcinogens of 4. similar cardiovascular and respiratory health risks including the risk of lung cancer," said Professor Heather Ashton, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology.

Professor Ashton, who was the consultant writer for the BMA report, Therapeutic uses of Cannabis, told the peers that her own students in Newcastle were also reporting dependency on cannabis, which was stronger now than 10 or 20

The BMA is calling for research into developing synthetic forms of cannabis to avoid the side effects - including getting "high" - in the use of the drug for therapeutic

The health risks associated with smoking cannabis, including possible passive smoking by the families of cannabis users, reinforced the BMA's ease for new forms of the drug to be developed.

But the team stressed that there were problems in developing drugs which could avoid the side effects associated with cannabis. There were also difhad made it so far impossible alcohol.



Breathing in: Candidates waiting to be judged in the search by Hasbro UK, the toy-makers, for the living embodiment of Action Man; hopefuls must be tough, square-jawed and willing to face the arch enemy, Dr X Photograph: Andrew Bourman Judge Hervé Stephan will be the permitted level of alcohol.

Diana judge to hold court

By John Lichfield

AGATHA CHRISTIE would, doubtless, have approved. The judge investigating the accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, plans to assemble almost all the witnesses and participants for a "mass confrontation" on 5 June.

The intention is to try to reconcile inconsistencies and flush out new scraps of information before the eight-month-old in- probably a white Fiat Uno. vestigation reaches its conclusion, probably by the end of June. The 10 photographers who are accused of helping to cause the accident, and another dozen or so eye-witnesses, are expected to an end. The sole survivor of the crash, the bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones will not, however, be asked to take part.

The event is reminiscent of the final chapter of a mystery novel, but it seems unlikely that who had consumed three times

able, Poirot-like, to point to one clear culprit, or to one clear cause of the accident.

The "mass confrontation" will, among other things, try to sort out conflicts of evidence between the paparazzi photographers who were pursuing Diana's party and eye-witnesses to the crash.

The conference will also try to piece together the available evidence on the "second car" which may have been involved,

The investigation has not excluded the possibility that faults in the Mercedes - in the braking system or the air-bags may have contributed to the accident. Overall, however, the investigation remains more or less where it was at the beginning: the most likely cause of the accident is thought to be the speed of the Mercedes, coupled with the condition of its driver, Henri Paul,



4

Cook takes ethical third way on policy

THE Government yesterday unveiled its record on putting human rights at the heart of British foreign policy, and pledged to build on the

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretury, said the days have gone for Britain to go around fecturing unsavoury regimes. It is far better to listen and promote reform. That, he said, is the Third Way, and the basis of the Government's approach to

At the launch of the "Human Rights Report", Mr Cook said the aim of the Third Way was mot to row or kow-tow" but to work in partnership across the world to promote reform.

The Foreign Secretary added that there were, however, "occusionally times when it is right to condenin publicly, loudly and firmly". He cited the example of Nigeria, where the military ruler .General Sani

Mr Cook continued: "An election with one candidate is not a free and tair election. Democracy requires a

Nigeria faces an October deadline from the Commonwealth to return to civilian rule.

Unlike the United States State Department's human rights list, Britain's is not overtly condemnatory. Mr Cook was asked by a Pakistani journalist why there was no criticism of alleged human rights abuses in Kashmir. The Foreign Secretary, who caused controversy with his reported remarks on the subject dur- cological agents and rockets. ing a royal tour of the Indian sub-continent last year, responded drily: "I am not normally censured

for saying too little on Kashmir." Mr Cook said he had put human rights at the heart of Britain's foreign policy. He went on to chart what he said were Britain's successes in working with countries such as Chi-

dimension to arms sales

However, the human ganisation Saferworld criucised the Government for granting export licences for sales to countries with poor civil rights records.

The organisation estimated 86 new export licences have been granted to Turkey and 22 to Indonesia since Labour came to power. These included sales of small arms, machine-guns and accessories. bombs, torpedoes, mines, surveillance and tracking systems, water cannons, riot control agents, toxi-

Lahour MP Ann Clwyd, who campaigns for an end to such arms contracts, said: "I think this trade continues with only limited regard for the effects it has in increasing violence or the impact on human rights. I think that Indonesia was the first hig test for the Government and on that test it has clearly failed because



Robin Cook and Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, launch the human rights report Photograph: John

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Iraq seminar says children are priority

EVERY effort must be made to channel aid to fragi children suffering in the aftermath of the Gulf war, a major international seminar in London agreed

The humanitarian confernce, which brought together all 5 EU member states, the Euopean Commission, the United Nations and charities have formulated a range of ideas on how best to implement the oil for food programme, Foreign Office sources stated.

The details would be conidered by the UN in New fork, but in the mean time the tate for International Develpment, has already announced. £7m food, medicine and mineclearing package on a bilateral ernment. But Mr. Fatchett

Baghdad government. delays and obstructions" while ensuring that "nothing done in the way of short-term humamtarian assistance should create a culture of dependency or in other ways undermine the longterm interests of the Iraqi peo-

It was also decided that there was a need for "greater prioritisation" and detailed attention must be paid to the plight of children in Iraq, especially those aged under five.

However, Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchen stated that Saddam Hussein's government must allow the international community to carry Please send cheques, made our out its humanitarian work. He . to The Independent Iraq Appeal, continued: "We cannot succeed to PO Box 6870, 1 Canada if we have got one hand tied be- Square, London E14 5BT.



government that can untie that. If they can provide that co-operation the chances of im-

"Sadly for too long Iraq has refused to co-operate fully. This

tions against the Baghdad govbasis for areas controlled by the prejected this for the time being, Delegates to the London lifting of sanctions once there conference pledged to "climi- is compliance of the Security

- Ms Short, challenged to either lift sanctions or not go through the exercise of humanitarian efforts said: " I think it would be wrong for any human being in the light of the political situation we are in to turn away from the Iraqi people and not do our best immediately and instantly while the wider political situation is resolved."

The Independent and Independent on Sunday's Iraq appeal has so far raised £ 88 000. The fund will be used to send medicines to Iraq to help 2,000 children with cancer.

Prescott asks Tube chief to stand down

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

THE-Government's plans for leasing London's Tube to the private sector claimed its first victim yesterday when the Toryappointed chairman was asked. to stand down.

Peter Ford, 59, was brought in by John Major in 1994 as chairman of London Transport after winning a reputation as a 'a cash crisis. The unions union-busting, strike-breaking notably the RMT - have also director of the shipping company P&O.

However, he met his match in the form of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, a former seaman and trade unionist, who took the chance to remove Mr Ford from his

post in restructuring LT. Mr Prescott said that he had decided to bring in a parttime non-executive chairman. He added that Mr Ford had been "asked to vacate the chairman's job" and would leave LT

Mr Ford clashed with Conservative ministers as well as Tony Blair's. Sir George Young, the last Conservative secretary of state for transport, reprimanded Mr Ford after privatisation plans appeared in newspapers days after LT had been briefed about them.

Despite a £365m cash boost wrung from the Treasury by Mr Prescott, the Tube is still facing attacked Mr Prescott's plans warning that they could mean higher fares for Londoners.

What is unclear is who will be running London's transport system in the run-up to the may-

or taking over in 2000. The new post will be crucial to ensuring the success of both the Government's plans for the capital's new constitutional bodies and also its aim to promote public transport.

Those who were said to be considered for the post include Steve Nortis, the articulate for-



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Education Editor :

FOUR-year-olds should spend 20 minutes a day on homework and 16-year-olds two and a half hours, according to Govern-ment guidelines published yesterday. Ministers also announced 8,000 out-of-school study centres to provide stateschool pupils with similar op-'crammers''.

The voluntary guidelioes suggest how homework should increase as pupils move up the school. For four-year-olds the out of five primary and most sectime should be spent reading with parents and learning to listen and respond. Formal homework should begin at the age of seven. Research done two years ago found that 43 per cent of 10year-olds have no regular in giving them a reasonable idea homework and half are spending three hours or more a night their children should expect. watching television.

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But an unpublished study by the standards watchdog, the Office for Standards in Education, has shown homework plays a vi-One experiment in Tower Hamstandards rose by 30 per cent work line which parents could

Out of hours

20 minutes a day (including 10 mins reading) - "

Years one and two :: Years three and four Years five and six Years seven and eight 30 minutes (20 minutes reading) 40 infinites (20 minutes reading) 50 minutes (20 minutes reading)

portunities to those available for over two years. In future, schools children who attend private will be expected to include their homework expectations in Mr Blunkett said he was inhome-school agreements to be. introduced under legislation now before Parliament. Three ondary schools are already following the guidelines.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, said: "I know that parents will find these guidelines particularly valuable of the amount of homework Many are unsure ... whether children should normally expect to be set homework."

The aim was to give all children the sort of help which partal role in raising standards. ents took for granted in a home where education was the norm. lets, east London, one of the One facility offered by some country's poorest areas, found schools was a telephone home-

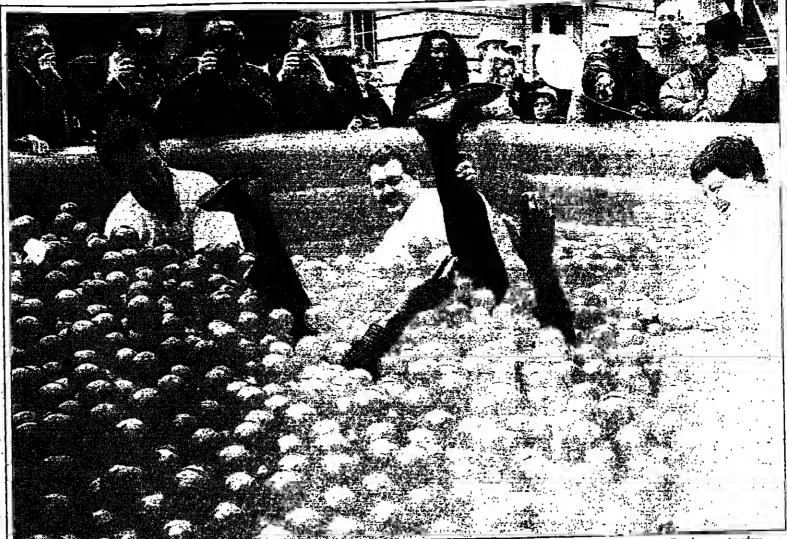
ring to check how much homework had been set.

vestigating whether homework should-be set in the holidays. Very little homework is given by state schools in the holidays. Quite a lot is given in private

He was unapologetic about borrowing ideas from the private sector. The lottery-funded study centres might play a similar role to crammers, which provide extra tuition for fees. "If it makes a difference for the children whose parents buy education, there is no reason why it should not make the same difference for those who can't afford to pay."

The homework centres will be staffed by teachers and volunteers. They will entice pupils by offering art, drama and sport as well as academic study.

· Susanne Moore, page 17



Fruit and nut: The television chef Ainsley Harriot submerged in 25,000 "lookalike tomatoes" at a tasting session at Covent Garden yesterday. The star of programmes such as Ready Steady Cook and Ainsley's Barbecue Bible was urging shoppers to buy British and stem the flood of foreign imports in a campaign which follows a £5m investment to boost the flavour of home-grown varieties

E.coli victims 'suffered from delays'

THE daughter of an elderly vicrim of the Scottish E.coli 0157 food poisoning outhreak yesterday made an emotional and anguished public plea for an explanation of delays in her mother's treatment.

Agnes Ralston claimed: it had taken too long for her health tell us of the E.coli outmother's case to be identified when she heard the homework as food poisoning;

too long for her to be admitted to hospital: and that there were delays

before a move to another hos-

told the inquiry in Motherwell: "Why wasn't mum taken to a hospital with a renal unit?

Why did she have to wait so long before they took her to hospital? "Why didn't environmental

break?

"Why were there no ambulances in an E.coli outbreak?" Her mother, Jessie Rogerson, 71, of Waterloo, Lanarkshire, died in Law Hospital, near Carluke, on 27 November 1996.

Wishaw at which several pensioners were struck down by the bug. Up to 21 elderly people stairs," she told the inquiry. died in the outbreak, the world's worst, and in which the Wishaw shop of Lanarkshire butcher

John Barr has been implicated. Mrs Ralston said that when the seriousness of her mother's condition was first spotted by doctors, the family took her to hospital themselves because

that was quicker than waiting for an ambulance on a snow-swept

hospital, she was so weak it took three of us to carry her down the She said that although her

mother had attended the church lunch, it was not until the following Sunday that she was admitted to hospital, and that the family doctor had first thought her mother's illness was caused by haemorrhoids and a stomach upset.

She said she had wanted her mother to be admitted earlier but had deferred to her doctor

digital

In an emotional appeal she tending a church lunch in hin-hag tied to her to get her to mother was admitted on the Sunday, she had been told that GPs were aware of the E.coli on the Friday and the Saturday.

In her appeal Mrs Raiston said: "Maybe if my mum had been treated differently or taken in earlier, would my mum have lived?

"If my mum was going to die, she should have died with some dignity. My mum died in a great deal of pain, and if there are lessons to be learned, let's learn them. We don't want anyone, child or adult, to suffer the way my mum suffered."

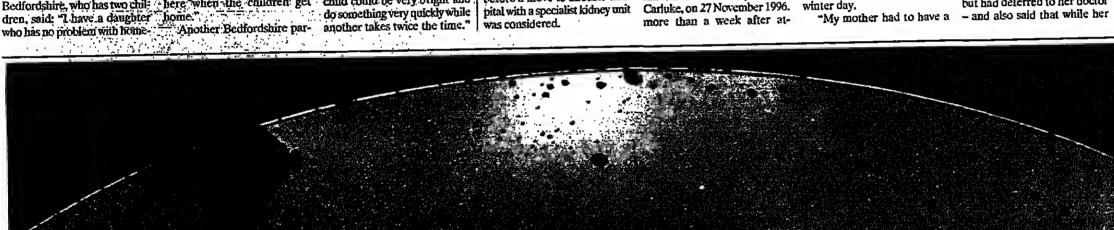
Good idea, but will they do it?'

PARENTS hacked the Gov: work and a son who we nag ent, Marian Townsend, who ernment's plans for a network about it. Before the election the -has two sons and a daughter at of homework clubs yesterday, children said we don't want secondary school, chuckled sigh about education ministers'. tis do more homework'. new homework guidelines, writes Ben Russell.

but breathed a world-weary Labour because they will make She backed Government

plans for after school homework Bev Edwards, from Silsoe, Chubs: "I work, so I'm not always Bedfordshire, who has two child here when the children get

"It's a good idea, but things like homework do vary from child to child," she said. "One child could be very bright and do something very quickly while



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Rainbow fades at funeral of black baby

By Mary Braid in Johannesburg

ANGELINA ZWANE'S coffin was so pitifully small it took hardly any flowers to cover, and seemed far too fragile for the emotion that swelled and broke

around it vesterday. It is 10 days since white farmer Nicholas Steyn, 42 - allegedly while drunk - shot Angelina, the six-month-old child of his domestic worker, through the head while she was being carried across his land on her on the platform above to de-11-year-old cousin Francina's

Ten days in which the death and the failure of white police immediately to arrest Steyn.

have caused white and black attitudes to harden and prompted scathing evaluations about the true state of the Rainbow Nation's race relations, partieularly in rural backwaters where the white "baas" is still king and black workers virtual serfs.

Yesterday, thousands converged on Benoni, east of Johannesburg, for what was as much a political rally as a funeral. For four hours the candles burned around Angelina's coffin as black speakers stood nounce whites spitting in the face of reconciliation.

"Nicholas shot the children like they were beasts," President



Eugean Steyn, stepmother of Nicholas Steyn, comforts Susan Diamoni, mother of baby Angelina Zwane. Above, protests at her death Photographs, AP/AFP

Winnie told the angry crowd. With hundreds of farmers murdered in the four years since Mr Mandela took power, Steyn told police he believed the children were "intruders".

But Mrs Mandela said he knew the children because they walked the path every day. One of the first to visit the Zwanes' tin shack, next to Steyn's home, Mrs Mandela said the family told her Steyn frequently brandished a gun and shouted he did Nelson Mandela's former wife not want "kaffirs" on his land.

"Maybe there is no Rainbow Nation because the rainbow has no colour black," said Mrs

She softened her message with the revolation that many whites had offered sympathy and financial help to Angelina's family. It was also revealed that Steyn's stepmother had attended Angelina's vigil following a personal "reconciliation appeal from the President. who has been criticised by white right-wingers for visiting An-

gelina's mother Violet hut ignoring dead white farmers.

But other speakers said Angelina's death marked the end of reconciliation, "Whites continue ... to kick us in the teeth," said Nkosi Mulala, of the left wing Azanian People's Party. "The more we display human benevolence towards them the more we feel their arrogance and scorn." Even as priests begged whites to stop "closing doors" on reconciliation, the sound of youths chanting

"Farmer, farmer, bullet, bullet drifted into the packed hall from outside.

The National Party, still struggling to shake off its apartheid past, yesterday condemned the "racially divisive" speeches, insisting Angelina's death should be a tragedy which bound together the entire nation. But there was only a handful of whites among the mourners, fuelling complaints that in the new South Africa a black child is still worth less than a white. she died.

Angelina's mother Violet looked shell-shocked yesterday; her personal tragedy has been seized and moulded into

national debate. With financial help from Mrs Mandela, Angelina was buried in a graveyard previously reserved for whites. She was laid to rest in the corner set aside for babies - the first black child among the whites. It was a rather tiny step on the road to racial equality, considering how

Guilty verdict for anti-abortionists

saudi

A CHICAGO juny has given United States abortion clinics a significant legal weapon against intimidatory antiabortion protests.

In a verdict which was welcomed as "a tremendous victory for abortion providers", the jury found that protest groups in Milwankee Wisconsin. and Wilmington. Delaware, were guilty of breaking federal laws against racketeering and extortion and awarded damages of \$86,000 (£51,000). While the verdict opens the way for clinics throughout the US to sue and potentially bankrupt the most prominent protest groups, the clinics may have difficulty collecting the damages, as protesters have tend-ed to avoid having assets that can be sequestered. - Mary Dejevsky

Marcos millions

MORE THAN \$250m placed in Swiss bank accounts by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has been returned to the Philippines, a scnior official said yesterday. But last-ditch appeals by Marcos family lawyers blocked the transfer of the rest of an estimated \$540m. Magtanggol Gunigundo, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) - Reuters, Manila

Serbia showdown

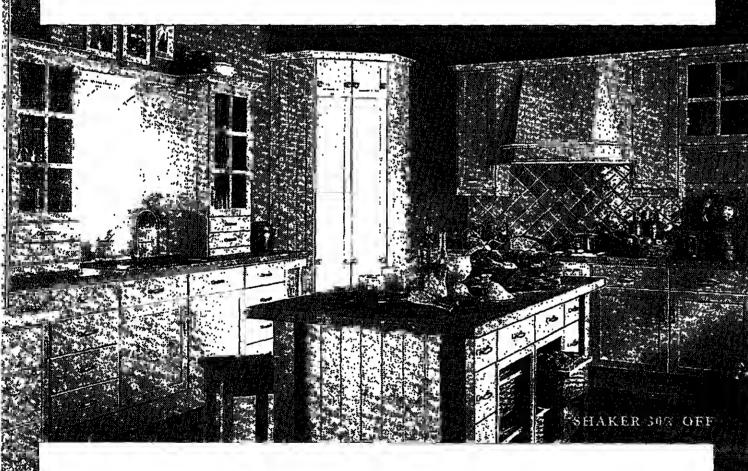
SERBIAN and Western security sources fear that a bloody showdown is imminent in Serbia's Kosovo province, where separatist ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs by a ratio of nine to one.

- Reuters, Pristina

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Secret tunnel found under Stalin's study in Kremlin

By Phil Reeves in Moscow

WAS Josef Stalin, architect of one of the most bloody and repressive regime in history, the victim of his own paranoid obsession with spying? Was the dictator himself under secret surveillance from his chief

henchman, Lavrenty Beria? ... Kremlin have found a secret rettes. Many were subsequent-NKVD secret police, to caves. of a few floorboards.

drop on his tyrannical boss. Before the introduction of the electronic bug. Soviet agents used hidden passageways to snoop on the Moscow élite - most notoriously, in the House on the Embankment whose occupants fice", said the paper, which were constantly monitored by police spies who were listening in from spaces between the walls. Sometimes, they could Workers refurbishing the even smell the agents' ciga-

of Stalin's former study, Russia's Trud reported that parts of Trud newspaper reported yes- the newly discovered Kremlin built, or knew of its existence. used by Beria, head of the in's old office only by the width sageway, it would have been

Agents for Beria, whose 15year reign ended when he was executed in 1953, would have had no difficulty in hearing what was going on within. "One could hear every word spoken in the offirst and second floor of the Kremlin's Senate Palace, behind the mausoleum on Red Square which holds Letin's body.

No evidence has been found tunnel running under the floor ly killed or sent to labour camps. in KGB or other archives that Stalin ordered the tunnel to be terday, which could have been tunnel are separated from Stal- Had it been an escape pasmore "comfortable", said Trud.

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Saudi zealots lash moral 'deviants' into line

TCOULD only happen in San-di Arabia. Only in Mesca are Exclusive: Robert Fisk reports on the case of a journalist who dared to criticise the guardians of Islamic purity di Arabia. Only in Mecca are the muawa - the religious police - so zealous.

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sored all news of the embar-And only in Mecca: the holi-rassing affair and only today est city in the Muslim world and months after Mr Kutbi was

the site of the annual Haj pil- . detained, beaten in prison and grimage, could a journalist in- thanks to a friend in high places, voke their wrath with the released has news of his treatmildest of criticisms, as Zuheir ment become known. Kutbi found out to his cost. Within hours of publishing

a book criticising the powers of the often self-appointed and spend much of their time guardians of Saudi morality, Mr. cruising the streets of Saudi Kuthi was arrested by the reli- cities searching for signs of imgious police, slung into jail and sentenced to be flogged.

The Saudi authorities cencompany of girifriends, or bust-

The mulawa are chosen from the strict Wahabi sect to which - purity of Islam's teachings. the Saudi royal family belong.

morality - "immodestly" dressed women, men in the

Sandis, was fed up not only with the mutawa's behaviour hut with their lack of education. A journalist on a local paper, he wrote a short book on the morality police, unfavourably

comparing their work with the "It was very mild stuff and not very daring," another Saudi iournalist commented yesterday, 'He never even mentioned release. the mutawa by name, but mere-

ly hinted at them." Mr Kutbi published his book

from his home to prison.

According to one report, the have him sentenced to death for leaders) but later accepted a sentence of flogging and several years' imprisonment.

Saved from the flogging, he

Mr Kuthi spent weeks in jail

was eventually freed - though only after what a relative cau-

arrived in Mecca he was dragged few months" behind bars. It is manhandled and beaten by

Many Saudis are frustrated Islam. morality police initially tried to with the activities of the mutawa. seeing in their power an exten-"insulting the ulema" (religious sion of Wahabi fanaticism. "They are as victous as snarling dogs," a Saudi academic told The Independent. "They are rahid, these people, with their while family friends sought his zany ideas. Kuthi said there should be no more religious nolice and he's right. The judicial

system is corrupt. This man is from a well-

ing parties. Mr Kutbi, like many in Cairo, but the moment it tiously described as a difficult known Meets family but he was said that he was badly beaten. these so-called guardiens of

As a consequence, Mr Kutbi can no longer write books or justice. articles for Saudi newspapers. "He wasn't a great writer," an acquaintance said.

simple guy who is intellectualh unimportant. But he was trying to compare the people who say they are in charge of morals with the ideals of Islam. Now he cannot work again."

Not that Mr Kutbi could be surprised at his treatment. Saudi Arahia's appalling human rights record is abened by a totally unfair system of criminal

Amnesty International has condemned the "summary procedures and secret practices" of He's looked at as rather a the three-tier court system as well as hundreds of executions carried out after trials which failed all international stan-

> Many of the victims were Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans

or Nigerians who were publicly beheaded after Friday prayers in front of city mosques.

Foreigners have been arrested for practising the Christian religion, and flogging is routine; an Egyptian named Mohamed Al al-Savyid, convicted of robbery in 1990, was sentenced to 4.000 Jashes.

In 1996, a Taif court sentenced two schoolchildren to 210 and 150 lashes after they allegedly hit a teacher.

All this has occurred in the country which the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, last weekend described as Ta cornerstone of stability" in the Middle East.

Science reveals face of medieval warrior



on Paris

IT MIGHT be a face from a , the gendarmeric. The skull of crowded restaurant or from the man, aged 40 to 50, was exthe Metro in the rush-honr. In humed from the vaults of a fact, the startlingly modern fea- church in Sainte-Colombe de tures are those of a French peasant who died, violently, 600 the outer suburbs of Paris. years ago, during the Hundred He is believed to have died Years War.

His photographic resurrection is the result of an un- mishing of the period.

precedented collaboration be-Chevilly-Larue, in what is now

a violent death, possibly in the interminable Anglo-French skir-

scientists fashioned a three-dimensional model of the man's head. Although similar facial models have been made from even more ancient skulls, the French scientists believe this is a first to be achieved with such

Using advanced techniques the gendarmeric laboratories and the forensic laboratories of ation, never before applied to configuration of the skull, the a subject of this kind, the police precise size and shape of the man's eyes, nostrils and mouth and the contours of his face. Similar work was done on a second skull of a woman, aged about 30, producing a photographic re-creation of her face - also startlingly modern - witha degree of accuracy and real- our the use of a three-dimenism. The computer programs in sional model.

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Blair under pressure to settle rival claims for Euro bank post

By Katherine Butler n autempours

TONY Blair is faced with chairing an embarrassing showdown over who runs the European single currency next week, after finance ministers failed yesterday to resolve a worsening pow-

and Dutch. At talks in Luxembourg both countries dug in on their rival claims to the most powerful joh in Europe, the presidency of the new European Central Bank.

er struggle between the French

The Dutch finance minister. Gerrit Zalm, said that for The Netherlands to back down would be tworse than losing to Germany in the World Cup".

Mr Zalm said the Dutch candidate commanded the sup-European Union states and it agrees to split his eight-year would be unthinkable that he mandate with Mr Trichet. should now be "blown off the

The dispute means Britain, cy and will chair next week's hisfoundation of monetary union among 11 member states, is under pressure to avera a crisis.

"This is a big worry. It is a problem for all 15 member states, but it is up to the British Presidency, which is very objective, to solve the issue now," Mr Zalm said, as he left

The Durch candidate for the post, Wim Duisenberg, head of the Bank's forerunner the European Monetary Institute, is up against the French central bank governor, Jean Claude Trichet. He emerged late last year as a surprise chal-

Despite early speculation that Paris would hack down, France has hardened its support for Mr Trichet in recent days. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, threatened on Monday to veto Mr Duisenberg at the port of a "massive majority" of summit next week unless he

A senior European Commission official hinted that a deal could still emerge wherewhich holds the EU presiden- hy Mr Duisenberg would agree to stand aside after the first four toric summit to launch the years of his term but there were no signals from the Dutch that this was a plausible out-

Gordon Brown the Chancellor of the Exchequer, chaired the Luxembourg meeting, the last opportunity for finance ministers to thrash out a deal before the crucial May summit.

He insisted that there was no legal obligation to settle choose a president before July when the European Central Bank is established.

But diplomatic sources from most countries believe that failure to agree on a candidate at the May summit would augur badly for future harmony within the Euro-zone.

In another sign of looming trouble over how the single currency should be run, the French yesterday raised strong objections to a German-led plan which would force all participating member states to sign up to hairshirt budgetary discipline for years to come.

Bonn wants to enforce the so-called "stability pact" which will penalise high-spending governments almost a year ahead of schedule. Ministers failed to agree the wording of a controversial draft declaration committing all Emu member states to fiscal discipline.

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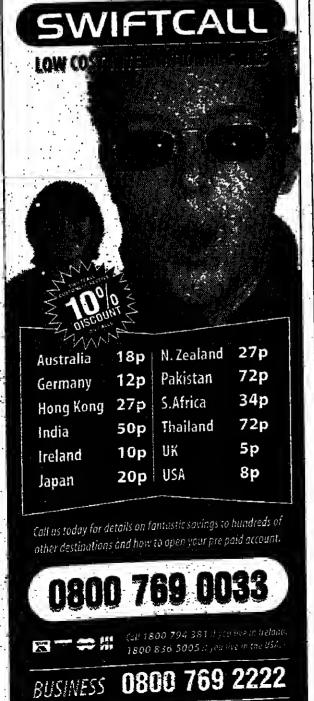
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By Teresa Poole in Peting

WHILE China's exiled dissident Wang Dan is relishing his new-found freedom in the United States, another Wang has been arrested, charged and sentenced to two years in a labour camp for "disturbing the social order".

The alleged "crime" of Wang Tingjin. 43, a mathematies teacher in central Anhui province, was to meet a US-based democracy dissident who secretly entered China in February to help set ир an opposition group. This Mr Wang's misfor-

wider world - which means two years this month. he can be summarily senthrough labour" without threatening Sino-US relations in the run-up to Presi-

is the third dissident to be sentenced within the past month. was a sweetener for the Clin-

Wang Dan's parole on medical grounds on Sunday ton visit, and that of Mary Robinson, the United Nations human rights commissioner, who is provisionally scheduled for an early June appearance in Peking. Hong Kong-based human

rights group say Wang Tingjin was arrested on 14 April and sentenced without trial the same day. Yang Qinheng, a Shanghai campaigner for free unions, was senienced to three years' labour last month, and Shen tune is to be unknown to the Liangqing, from Anhui, to

Human rights groups fear tenced to "re-education the high-profile release and exile of China's most famous political prisoners obscures the fate of less dent Bill Clinton's planned well-known political activists.



visit at the end of June. He Jonathan Mirsky, page 17 Flag waving: China's decision to free Wang Dan was a sw

A LUXURY HOLIDAY IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

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crossings for a car and its passengers are also part of the prize.

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For more information about the prize draw or your nearest Renault Dealer, call 0800 52 51 50. RENAULT



THE RENAULT MÉGANE FROM £9,995

Microsoft moves to keep grip on Internet

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

LAWYERS for Microsoft and the US Justice Department were back in court yesterday this time the appeal court - in the latest round of their battle over the computer market.

The government says Microsoft sought to use the dominance of its Windows software to squeeze out competitors in the market for browsers, which give access to the Internet. Microsoft says the authorities are trying, illegitimately, to dictate

turn of the year, when the Justice Department accused Microsoft of violating terms of an earlier anti-monopoly agree-ment. The judge in that case reserved his final verdict but ordered Microsoft to stop marketing its Internet browser as an integral part of its Windows software with immediate effect. He also appointed a Harvard professor, Lawrence Lessig, to consider the technical merits of Microsoft's case.

At yesterday's hearing Microsoft challenged the court's injunction on the marketing of its Internet Explorer browser, saying it is fully integrated into the . first switched on. No ruling is without it Windows would maifunction. It also contended, on the basis of intercepted elec-, will be used by both sides to gear tronic mail messages, that Prof .. up for the greater battle: for the

about technology than about ness in pursuit of a monopoly. Microsoft's requirement that resent its case to Congress and computer-makers accept the the media.

Internet Explorer as a condition of huying the now-ubiquitous Windows software - and then promote it. While Microsoft continues to argue that technically it is in the right, it has quietly conceded some of the marketing points.

It is amending contracts not only with US customers but also in Europe, where there have been similar complaints, so that computer-makers are no longer required to take the Internet Explorer browser exclusively. Most recently Microsoft has also said it will permit computer-makers the terms of its innovation and to have a system that does not automatically display the Exdevelopment. automatically display the Later The dispute flared up at the piorer icon when Windows is



Bill Gates: His empire is seeking a better image

Windows program and that likely on yesterday's appeal for three months.

But it is clear that this time Lessig was biased against Mi-hearts and wallets of the buycrosoft and should be replaced. ing public. Microsoft, worried The Justice Department ar- that it is being branded by congued that its complaints are less sumers as just another big busimarketing and specifically about is engaged in a campaign to rep-

California cannabis club avoids drop-out

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Ms Rogers, 78, who smokes New name, new director - same marijuana to treat her glaucosmell. San Francisco's largest ma, said: "I'm sort of appremedical marijuana club was bensive. I never ran anything due to reopen yesterday with before except a family. cosmetic changes designed to ran an office once. I don't know get around an eviction notice. what to do."

Dennis Peron, founder of the Cannabis Cultivators Club, thetic to the use of marijuana.

Mr Peron started the club four years ago and was a prime and his followers complied on mover behind the successful Monday with the eviction order. 1996 drive for the state's medwon by the state attorney-gen- icinal marijuana law, which aleral, Dan Lungren. Even as he lows sale of it to patients for ordered the club to be vacated, medical use. The order to close San Francisco Sheriff. Mike: "the club was based on sales to Hennessey said he was sympa- care-givers rather than patients.

Mr Peron called it a technifor medicinal purposes. He said cality that Mr Lungren seized he would not move against the on, but took responsibility for club's successor agency, the the error. The two also are seek-Cannabis Healing Centre, and ing the Republican gubernatoits new director, Hazel Rogers. - rial nomination.

Briton feared dead in Colombian crash

fore investigators discover why Air France Flight 422 crashed people on board, an Air France off from El Dorado sirport. spokesman said yesterday.

As heavy rain continued to hamper police and rescue workers recovering the bodies, a For- capital city. Its flight recorder, eign Office spokesman said or black box, has been found there was an unconfirmed report that a British national had to the accident. been killed in the crash.

Ecuadorean airline, and flown among the dead.

by retired pilots from the Ecuadorean air force. Martin IT COULD be several days be- Gonzalez, a civil aviation spokesman, said the jet crashed in broad daylight about 150ft into a Colombian mountain short of the 10,000ft summit range on Monday, killing all 53. only three minutes after take-

The wreckage of the Boeing was scattered over half a mile of mountainside just above the and is being examined for clues

. Most of the passengers The Boeing 727, a former killed were Ecuadorean, but six Lufthansa aircraft which was French, four Danish and six Italless than 20 years old, was ian citizens, including two on leased from TAME, an their honeymoon, are also



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Shock treatment in a story for little horrors

Adrian Turpin takes a peek behind the scenes as a children's nightmare hurtles into life

a Frankfurt doctor who worked in three years in the making. a lunatic asylum, thought he would buy his three-year-old son a book tion of songs based on Hoffmann's for Christmas. "But what did I thymes. Performed by the cult Lonfind?" he lamented. "Long tales, stn- don bend the Tiger Lilies, they marpid stories, beginning and ending with admonitions like. The good child must be truthful or Children Martyn Jacques. The original idea must be clean'." Which is how Hoffmann came to write one of the interpret each song. When that most famous children's books ever, didn't work, producer Michael Morthe collection of cautionary tales ris approached Julian Crouch and

known as Struwwelpeter. Hoffmann, who had a reputation for treating his mentally ill charges with unusual kindness, wrote and illustrated stories initially to calm childrea who saw the doctor as a bogeyman. But, reading the stories, deaths of disobedient infants, you wonder whether the doctor did more barm than good to his young

The Freudian bad dream that is describes the great, long, red Before that they had gone through nowadays we are all children bring-legged scissoman punishing young a wicker period, using laundry basing up children, and one way be does Conract Oh! Oh! Oh! Snio! Conrad: "Oh! Oh! Oh! Snip! Snap! Snipl They go so fast that both his thumbs are off at last . Augustus, who won't eat his soup, starves to death. Flying Robert's only misdemeanour is to walk out in the wind. He is blown away on an umbrella and never seen again.

When, decades later, Hilaire Belloc wrote his Cautionary Tales. he included the story of Matilda who wind, "Fire, fire!" so offers, that when her house did catch light no one believed her. In Struwwelpeter, retribution tends to be swifter and not the kind of directors who believe more cruel. Hoffmann's Harriet in concepts. Even their classical plays with matches and simply burns to death. The illustrations show, first, the girl in her pinafore, huge flames shooting from her back, and, second, two cats sobbing into handkerchiefs before a pile of cinders.

These days, it's not easy to find a copy of Struwwelpeter, and certainly not in the children's sections of book- sound like Babel, and improbably shops. But the theatre, it's good to successful, given the chaos inherent see, is made of sterner stuff. Tonight, Cultural Industry's splendid stage version of Hoffmann's book comes

IT BEGAN as a treat but spawned to the Lyric Hammersmith. Shockalglithmares for generalic as of chil-hamiet reservation a junk opera dren. In 1844 Heinrich Hoffmann, for boys and girls" - has been almost

> The starting point was a collecried gypsy-like melodies with the unearthly falsetto of the singer was to get different performers to Phelim McDermott.

Two of the most innovative director-designers working in Britain, Crouch and McDermott have built a reputation for shows as emotionstunning, like last year's 70 Hill Lane, most of which end in the violent a tale about a poltergeist that haunted McDermon's childhood home. They employed countless roles of Sellotape to create a house, a ghost, also read a book by Robert Bly, who even at one point McDermott's grandmother. One critic described: Society, which is about the lost art

> Little Augustus starves to death, Harriet burns to a pile of cinders and Robert is carried away by high winds. What next?

May Lation of Don One Me.

But, despite such distinctive designs, Crouch and McDermott are productions, such as last year's A Midsummer Night's Dream for the English Shakespeare Company, develop out of extended improvisations. The company the duo have set up with Lee Simpson of the Comedy Store Players is called Improbable Theatre: lots of impro, rehearsals that

in the way they work.

kets and raffia mats in a quixotic it is by looking at a lot of fairy tales. It give us something to link everything together."

Using a technique called "one word", in which a group of people assemble a story together by each writing one word at a time, they came up with the connecting narrative of Shockheuded Peter.

"We wrote about a very wealthy couple who have everything," Crouch adds, "happiness, good looks, money and a beautiful house. but they don't have a child. So then we had them having a kind of mutant, and we ended up with this very dark story where they bury the With Shockheaded Peter the child and hide it under the floor. tion is an area where you've got to

can't be the end." But, if Shockheaded Peter is about they stopped focusing on children

families, h's also about puring on and statical constanting on pursue, "I've got a couple of kids," a show, a process that directors of-Crouch says, "and I was going ten compare to being a parent. through a separation, so I was very Cronch and McDermott have set the interested in parenting. But we play inside a Victorian theatre, with cardboard cut-outs and wohbly wrote from John, called The Sthere somery. The master of constitutions: (brilliantly played by Julian Bleach) "Little Suck-a-Thumb" graphically it as "Blue Peter meets Blue Velver" of being parents. What he says is that is an actor-manager who looks like the child-catcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and the spectacle he is putting on, with its monstrous child

maily a treak show.

"You have this incredible amount of pathos from this man who thinks he's the greatest actor in the world, but somehow feels that he's foiled because it's not quite as good as he thought it would be," says Crouch. "I suppose a lot of the show is about being a failure but being beautiful at the same time. That's certainly true if you look at the picture of Peter from the original and the text says how filthy he is, but actually his face is angelic.

"There's a lot of that in Shockheaded Peter. It has beartiful moments even when it's at its most horrific or ridiculous. You could say that that's the same with everything I do with Phelim and Lee. We're interested in the beauty of failure: how ... it gets you to the point where you enter something more sublime." Or, as McDermott puts it: "Improvisa-

cover new things. You go rubbish, rubbish, but the two rubbish steps are awards something our and exceens."

That is certainly how Improbable's other new show. Lifegame. seems to work. It's what they call "theatrical biography", an idea borrowed from the Canadian improgura Kufth Johnstone. Each night a guest is interviewed on stage. Scenes from their life are then improvised by performers. That may sound like a cross between In The Psychiatrist's Chair, Whose Line Is and violent punishments, is essen- It Anyway? and Oprali, but Mc-Dermott takes issue with that.

"People think it might be dangerous because it's messing with people's heads, but it's such a public arena. You want some emotion but that doesn't mean people breaking down. If you were going to ahuse someone's trust, you're doing it in public and the audience could turn on you. I'd rather say it's just storytelling which is the basis of therapy anyway. That's probably why therbook. He's meant to be a monster, apy exists, because in society storytelling has been lost really: it's been turned into Cats."

If only poor Shockheaded Peter had had a chance to express himself that way, he might not have grown up to he such a monster. □ Shockheaded Peter is at the Lyric Hammersmith until 9 May (0181 741 2311) then at Glasgow Tramway. Lifegame is at the Purcell Room, London (14-17 May), Newcastle Playhouse (10-13 June). Theatre Royal, Bath (16-20 June) and Lyric biggest problem was finding a struc- And that's very exciting, because you accept that you're going to be shit. Hammersmith (22-27 June).





feared deal

mbian cras stage-show of Saturday Night sharp you could cut your finger on it. Er, not if you were from the 70s were not so much trendy as irredeemably naff. I mean, how else can you explain The

> Bay City Rollers? Boogie Nights - The Musical Night Fever and all its "the 1970s were chic" propaganda. A new show unconnected to the film of the same name, Boogie Nights is currently touring the West-End run in the autumn. Jon Conway, its writer and director, is quick to emphasise that the show is very much set on this side of the Atlantic - it's die 70s of the power cat rather than the power wardrobe.

"Our catchline is: 'the 70s didn't just happen in America'," Conway says. The biggest roar in the show is when someone rides on stage on a Raleigh ing a Raleigh Chopper - they'd chic equals mega-cheques. Just 1970s they were actually quite though the nostaigia factor ing nationally

THE 1970s were cool, pro- James Rampton on a show celebrating the decade that taste forgot with the memory). "Look at. 4re

Boogie on back to Seventies wonderland

Fever, which opens next month. have a Hell's Angel on a Harley They were all about glitz, glam- Davidson. That's the difference our, glitter, and a white suit so between the two countries. We just have this tremendous sense of irony - even when something Manchester, rather than Man-terrible happens. Dunkirk was hattan, they weren't. In Britain, our finest bour, after all." He goes on to explain why the 1970s - at least for the

British - remains the decade that taste forgot. "The great 70s icons were football terraces is Britain's antidote to Saturday and hooliganism, On the Buses, crap cars whose fanbelt always used to break, scratched records which hissed just before they started; and lino. Also, everyone used to make lists all the time. country in preparation for a Nick Hornby's book, High Fidelity, got that exactly right. You'd make a list of the best five girls you'd ever kissed. Today. that would be too uncool - and you wouldn't talk about it un-News of the World."

With the success of films like Boogie Nights and The Ice Storm and the return of such period TV classics as The Sweeney. The Professionals and The Chopper I can't see any self-re- Wombles, 1976s nostalgia is that mania for all things 70s. specting American musical us- suddenly big box-office. Retro-



Nostalgia trip: 'The 1970s are all about escapism'

look at all those "homage" adverts to 70s cop shows. Prois you were selling it to the ducing a feel-good musical stuffed with hits from the period - "Boogie Wonderland," "1 Will Survice," "Sign- Babu Love," "YMCA," "Culebration," and "Play That Funky Music" - Conway is tapping into

the three-day week, but now all those things almost seem comthat. We've forgotten the Winmember guys in lurex jumpsuits 1970s are all about escapism. rific hero." We all need to be able to escape into fantasy." He claims that people also

had more fun in the 70s - you only have to look at the clothes sense of humour. Conway raeconomy is the width of people's lapels. After the Second World War, in a time of austerity. they were very thin. Then after the 'white heat of technology' in the 60s and into the 70s, they got much wider. That's my highly thought-out guide to the

country's prosperity."

You Being Served? In the 70s, all ugly, but we look back on them the sitcom characters were largthrough rose-tinted spectacles. er than life. Now they're all There were tower blocks and right-on and PC. The 70s had great characters - not only in sitcoms, but in life itself. Take footforting-nostalgia always does ballers. Now they're all so correct, but in the 70s there ter of Discontent and corpses were players like Stan Bowles. not being buried and just re- He'd get pissed before the match and trip up over his like Marc Bolan and Sweet. The shoelaces, but he was still a ter-

A cheery chappy with a very down-to-earth view of theatre. Conway has no pretensions about Boogie Nights. He is aware that the show is never goto realise they had a lively ing to win Olivier Awards for sophistication. "If you don't want tionalises the flapping flares and to laugh, you shouldn't come to pavement-sized lapels thus: the party. The arty critics will They say a good guide to the come to Boogie Nights and say. but is it art?' The answer is, 'no, it's entertainment', and entertainment and art aren't always the same thing. We have some salient things to say, but we never let that get in the way of people baving a good time."

Boogie Nights - The Musical' is People were more exuber- at the Theatre Royal, Norwich "When you reflect on the ant, too, Conway reckons (al- (01603 622 777) and then tour-

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The bride wore a dress to impress The average price of a wedding dress last vear was f699 On the first last vear was f699 On

The average price of a wedding dress last year was £689. On top of that, the headdress, veil, shoes and accessories came to £284, making a grand total of £973 for the wedding outfit alone. Getting hitched is an expensive business. However, the amount you spend on your wedding dress does not determine how

fabulous you look on the day. A dress can fulfil your dreams whether you pay £200, or the equivalent of a healthy deposit for a house. Tamsin Blanchard chooses between three price ranges: the vintage, the traditional and the outrageously expensive fantasy made to fit both you and your dreams.



Holly Wood, £200

Holly Wood, (yes, Holly's husband's name is Steve Wood), 23, was married last Saturday in a vintage Sixties cocktail dress from Steinberg & Tolkein on the King's Road, London. Her cream-satin, glassbeaded dress cost £190. She added a pair of secondhand Pied à Terre shoes from Greenwich market, a bargain at £5.

"I KNEW I wanted an old dress and had a list of shops to work through, including Coraucopia and Alfie's Market. The problem with old dresses is they are usually in really bad condition. When I went to Steinberg & Tolkein, however, one dress really stood out. It was cream satin with a glass-beaded bodice, slim fitting and to the ankle - a bit Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly in Breakfast at Tiffany's.

"The thing about wearing a second-hand dress is you know that someone else has loved it and that makes you love it too. The dress wasn't specifically a wedding dress but reminded me of last summer's Proda collection. It makes me feet like a chandelier because the beads are very swingy. I feel as though I should have a cigarette holder when I wear it. I wanted something sexy but I didn't want to show off my cleavage - it's just not right for a church.
"I was told I could get the dress dry-cleaned, but I went to four

dry-cleaners and no one would take the responsibility. One place quoted me £100 but still wouldn't do it. They thought the beads would melt. In the end, my mum handwashed it which took away some of the stiffness and sheen of the satin. I starched it and that's given it a new sheen. After the wash, the fabric around the hem literally dissolved so I had to shorten it and decided on just below the knee. It's quite 'cocktail hour' so it was perfect for the informal reception after the ceremony. There are a lot of different occasions you have to go through all in one day: the formal church wedding which is a sober affair; the wedding pictures; the meal we served fish and chips and trifle - and then the party.

"I can only wear this dress once because it's old and frail. To make it fit - women were different shapes then than they are now - 1 had the armholes lowered, the bust taken out, and the hips taken in. In the Fifties, you would have worn a corset. I bought a fantastic bra from Rigby & Peller. It cost £35 but was well worth it for a slight Fiftles pointy look.

"My shoes were £5 from Greenwich market. They are pale grey suede with a diamante strap. I was prepared to spend £300 on a pair of shoes but I just couldn't find anything I wanted. I was after kitten heels with a closed toe because I didn't know if find was just perfect. It was quite an eclectic look."



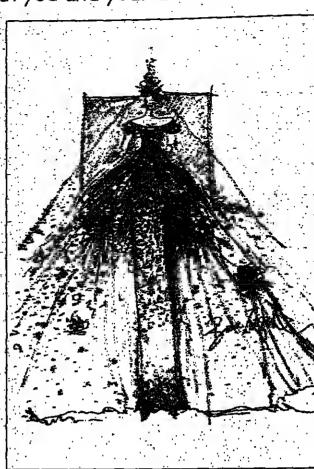
Helen Vasiliou, £2,000

Helen's dress cost £1,700, but came to around £2,000 with alterations. She shopped around at Liberty and Neil Cunningham but finally found the perfect dress from Caroline Castigliano in Berners Street, London. It was by David Fielden. Helen was married at All Saint's church in Camden Town, north London, three weeks ago.

"£2,000 was well over what I wanted to spend. And I wasn't go- For £2,000 I thought it would be perfect. It was very well fitted ing to go for a full dress. I'm 4ft 11in and wanted something simple. I tried on a lot of dresses but kept going back to the David a multi-layered tulle underskirt and a short train. It had a very flat bow on the waist in front. It was very Sixties. I was a bit dis-

though and was really comfortable. I didn't have to pull it up once. "When I walked down the aisle, I just looked straight ahead

Fielden. It had a tightly fitted, boned bodice in Mercado silk with at my fiancé to see his reaction. You feel like a queen. A friend said I looked like the cat that got the cream. I'll have it cleaned and vacuum packed and it'll go in the loft. It's a lot of money it was going to snow, hail or shine. The second-hand Pied a Terre appointed with the finishing. The tulle underskirt wasn't prop- and it'll never be worn again which was a shame. I don't think erly attached to the bodice so my mum had to make it secure. any dress justifies that money. But I felt lovely and very special."



Basia Zarzycka, £20,000

Basia Zarzycka runs a couture wedding gown business from her shop on the King's Road in Chelsea, London. She includes a pair of hand-made shoes, bag, jewellery, veil and tiara in the package and prices start at £4,500 and go up to £25,000. Her dresses are the stuff of dreams and fantasies, the ultimate fairytale wedding experience. Basia has a six-month waiting list, employs 26 staff and can only work on between 20 and 30 dresses at

"We make the dress from beginning to end. The dress grows with the client. When the bride comes to us they could be royalty, or Jill Smith from down the road, but they all have one thing in common: they have a dream, a fairytale fantasy that they want brought

We have 600 tiaras to choose from. We do the whole outfit from top to toe, all included in the price. The shoes are made with a beechwood beel and we make a toile for the shoe as well as the dress so everything fits like a second skin. We use the finest chantilly lace, and the best specialist fabrics. A dress usually takes around four fittings to perfect, but the bride won't see the actual fabric until the second fitting. Corsets are our speciality. We use up to 21 panels per corset and we love hand beading. Our dresses are inspired by the eighteenth century and are very elaborate and baroque. We do modern corsets as well. The dress in the sketch is made of old white grand duchess satin from Bucoli in Paris, embellished with chantilly lace and hand-tooled Victorian roses in gold. The corset has 21 segments and is decorated with seed pearls. Austrian crystals and antique sequins. There is also a matching bag and chantilly lace shoes, a tiara and a Cathedral-length lace veil which is 3 metres long.

As wedding venues get more unusual - castles and stately homes -women are moving back to a fantasy, ethercal look. They want their dress to be as splendid as possible. We really hold their hand bring out their personality.

I don't know what happens to the dresses after the marriage is over. I have never seen one go on the market for sale. I've heard that some of the clients have glass display cabinets made for the dress and glass domes made for their shoes. . .

We don't always do white dresses. We listen to the client's vision and fantasy and put it into reality.

I haven't been married yet, but I have my own fantasy. It's a secret until a year before my marriage. I won't make my own dress - it's bad luck."

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Diana Laurie, jewellery designer and founder of Wild Jewels for Brazen Bodies reveals her eclectic wardrobe

secrets

"I AM one of those jewellery designers who doesn't wear a lot of jewellery, and when I do, 1 prefer to wear just one stunning thing. I think that is why my tiaras are so popular because they are full of sparkle.

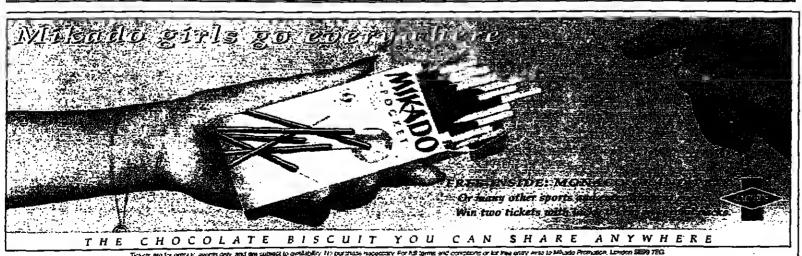
"I love beautiful clothes, and I am a particular fan of Christa Davis, she has a fantastic studio in Portobello. We are almost twins in our sense of colour, she has these wonderful rails of clothes in beautiful colours, they



remind me of my favourite painter, Mark Rothko. I bought a gorgeous full-length fuchsia and orange dress from her, cut on the bias, with little straps, I generally layer it with a lilac chiffon overdress, which has little silver sequins. It is a slightly gypsy-like

look, but it's also very glamorous. "I am also a huge Vivienne Westwood fan. I have a beautiful silk jersey sleeveless top by her ... it's very 1940s, which is one of my favourite eras.

"There are so many things that I could never get rid of. ! still have the dress I made myself for my 20th birthday bash. It is a gold satin number, based on the dress that Marilyn Monroe wore to the première of Let's Make Love, with a bow on the burn ... I also have a really fabulous Kitty Pursy bag, a little silver rucksack, with silver wings on, I truly love it, it makes me



HOT THING

Fashion photographers who do weddings



WEDDING photographs can be so boring. "There's me and him ... there's me and mum, there's me and the bridesmaid." Stop. What about hiring top catwalk photographers who work for Marie Claire, Vogue, or I-D?

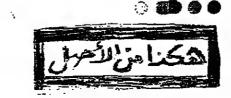
It is possible. Sean Cunningham (he does the catwalks of Milan, New York, Paris and London for Vogue) and Mitchell Sams (Marie Claire) have been photographing weddings as a team for three years. What they bring to the day in contrast to a traditional wedding photographer is a dogged determination to capture every possible moment, both in reportage and traditional style, from two hours before the wedding, until

the bride and groom leave on their honeymoon. This is come hell or high water, the same tactic employed at the catwalk shows. "It's the ability to get great pictures really quickly with-

out upsetting anybody," says Cunningham who has encouraged an entire family into an ancient tree for one shot, and even stripped down to waders and swimming trunks to snap another family standing on a rope bridge over the river Wye. "It is a service particularly appreciated by people who like good pictures," he adds.

The results are certainly unique, as the photographers - who work together to guarantee maximum coverage - respond to every possible event around them, and that means everything. At the end of the average wedding they have about 1000 pictures choose from, it isn't cheap, costing from £1,500 in fees, film and processing but each picture will eventually be worth its weight in gold.

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Sculptors sock it to the masses

to the value of public works of art, but, as Vanessa Thorpe reports, not everyone likes the idea

"BUT I THOUGHT this was going to be rude," said a citizen of Loughborough, Leicestershire, cheated of a surge of outrage once the statue of a naked man wearing nothing but a sock and a strategically placed sycamore leaf was unveiled.

"I suppose I do quite like it," another bystander admitted.

For the sculptor, Shona Kinloch, standing nearby, this kind of response to her work was in happy. contrast to the criticism voiced carlier in the month, before it had even been seen. In the circumstances, an element of bathos at the municipal viewing was positively welcome.

The contentious £23,000 statne called The Sock, now stands in Loughborough's pedestrianised town centre and takes the form of a burly man, with indeterminate features who is proudly poking

be-socked foot for general in-spection. The woolly sock, you should note, is not just any piece of clothing this is a town with historical links with hosiery. The leaf's important, too.

"Well, he is in public, isn't he? If the work had been for a gallery I probably wouldn't bave bothered with the leaf," explains Kinloch. "So you see, I was pandering to public taste a little."

Kinloch is one of a growing band of sculptors now regularly commissioned to create focal points for town centres or business headquarters, as Britain, borne on a tide of lottery cash: bravado, at last regains its sense... of artistic purpose. Up and down the country, councils, corporations and private businesses are starting to see public works of art as the right way to raise their pro-

Yet both Kinloch and her fellow artist Anthony Gormley, creator of Gateshead's Angel of the North, have discovered that this ... renaissance is a mixed plessing. Not for either artist the fond.

smiles and affection lavished on David Wynne, the animal sculptor who created the beloved Boy and Dolphin statue on London's Chelsea Embankment, Kinloch's The Sock has, like the Angel of the North, provoked a local row about the misuse of public mon-

"People said the money should have been spent on home-helps." says Kinloch, who spent six months working on The Sock. There is nothing I can do about home-helps. If someone in Government would sort that out, my life would be a fot easier."

A reliance on state funding is not the only way in which a public artist is vulnerable, though. Statues attract controversy and are often targeted by vandals. In the 1980s, a hulky bust of Nelson Mandela had to be removed from London's South Bank for some months after it was attacked. And earlier this month the sculptor Nathan David was deeply upset by gratuitous damage done to his bronze figure of Margot Fonteyn. The hallerina's statue, which stood near the sife of her Surrey birthplace; was pushed over and all the mternal rods were snapped.

For other public pieces, like Dublin's infamoris Floory in the Jacuzzi, there is only the ignominy of widespread ridicule.

It is easy to see why young sculptors might shy away from designing for public spaces. The dealers' gallery is much more suited to displaying installations and video walls. And there is certainly more artistic freedom that .

When you work with a local anthority, they often want you to involve the history of the area," comments Kinloch. "Or else they want you to involve students. Both of these can be impractical and difficult." But the organisations that sup-

port public commissioning in this country are determined that artists like Kinloch should not.



Kinloch's The Socie the leaf reflect public taste, the hosiery reflects history Photograph: Brian Harris

ticularly nice. This is where

Veronica Sexton lives and

where she raised her children.

And this is where, even early on

a rainy Friday night, there is no

shortage of women looking for

business and cars cruising by to

provide it. A sad woman named

Bel said she's lost track of her

arrests. She likes working in a

residential area because it

makes her feel safer. Della,

wearing a red PVC skirt, said

she might give the zone a try.

She is the only one who

seems hopeful. Mrs Thorne

lose heart. There is a dangerous drive by students away from publie art at the moment," warns Colin Tweedy, chief executive of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA). "All this video work can become too personal, I think. Art schools are moving away from reality."

Instead, Tweedy believes, Britain should concentrate on emerging from an era in which public art was "notoriously" negleeted.

We used to be quite good once, although it was always statues of generals or Queen Victoria." he says. "It is still not considered very British. Even with the Angel of the North there was a lot of criticism, whereas the Italians, for example, would just think it was good for the area. In Britain the reaction is to think

we will be a laughing stock." Tweedy suggests a genuine growth of interest in public art has been partly inspired by the Millennium and partly by National Lottery cash. The ABSA, he says, is working with the Government to promote the idea that businesses should stop simply sponsoring opera and other oneoff events.

"Public sculpture is permanent, and what's more, a mural on the side of a city underpass will belp to prevent graffiti. A lot of local authorities are seeing that - Birmingham, for example, with its Millengium Square."

Sandra Percival, director of the Public Arts Development Trust, sees no need for any artist to change their style of work to have a public airing. On 23 May ber trust is to launch an adventurous project called "Arts TransPennine" that will involve both conventional and avantgarde works and venues across the north of England.

We are also funding an Irish project at the moment alongside the walkways at a Heathrow terminal. It includes video installations and will be seen by two-anda-half million people a year.

Unexpectedly, the British Airports Authority has discovered an added value to this scheme travellers' complaints about the length of walking time inside the terminal have dropped markedly.

In fact, the airports authority turns out to be one of Britain's keenest public art sponsors (its biggest popular success is probubly Will Pye's striking metal cone at the centre of the spiral walkway at Gatwick).

Says Percival: "The BAA is very good, probably because one of its directors was once chairman of the Public Arts Development Trust. But there is a genuine interest and movement towards public art throughout all business sectors."

The method by which businesses should be induced to pay for art is not so easy to agree on. Tweedy sees value in the "Per cent for Art" system favoured abroad. This means that planning permission is granted with the proviso that, say, one per cent of building costs are spent on a publie commission.

There would also be merit, he believes, in a structure of tax break incentives.

"We ourselves operate a matching grant scheme which can double the money a business gives," he explains, It has run since 1984 and it's called the Pairing Scheme. It allows us to give out up to £5m of Government money a year."

Sandra Percival is less sanguine about the worth of incentive schemes. "I don't think the best way is through mandating," she argues.

"It doesn't ensure adequate funding and it doesn't ensure an adequate work of art." Formulas, she contends, are

just as inimical to good art commissioning as they are to the creation of good art. Leading article, page 16

A problem with tolerance

There's an alternative to a red-light area, but few dare discuss it, says Ann Treneman

ing to shut up about it until a lot. Her constituents are something is done. The problem frightened to walk home in can be seen every day from her case a car cruises by and they beautiful bay window that looks. hear a voice saying: "Doing on to one of Cardiff's leafier streets. There, against a back-. like their children to play outdrop of large Victorian family : side. Mrs Thorne called a pubhouses, the sex industry (or. lic meeting. "I invited the what passes for it here) is at police. They weren't very hapwork. Prostitutes, pimps and, lately, boys too. "The streets are littered with the physical evidence - condoms, needles - and they are quite openly doing ... husiness," says Mrs Sexton

Julie has a problem too. She is 32, has six kids and hasn't been out on this street hat is not so far away from Mrs Sexton's hay window since Christmas. But she needs some money. She understands why residents are angry. "You can't blame them. If I lived in this area I wouldn't like it. I wouldn't want it for my kids." So what's the answer then? lulie shrugs. Business calls. This is the only place she can make decent money. So Cardiff has a problem.

Mrs Sexton and her neighbours are not going to go away and neither are the Julies. What to do? There were reports that a pecially formed working pary had put forward the idea of creating a Dutch-style tolerance zone where prostitution and terb-crawling would be allowed. If it happens, it would be a first. The idea is being linked to next year's rugby World Cupwhen Cardiff will be bursting with men who may want something more than sport.

The idea may sound rather sensible, but the reality is anything but. The working party itself is a bit of a secret and would prefer to stay that way. Toleration zone? Where had I beard that? Was I aware that ab-Polutely nothing had been decided? The police aren't sure about the extent of the problem. Cardiff County Council sees it as too hot to handle. "Why would anyone want to get in-volved with that?" they whisper.

business, love?" They do not by but I said that really this was a police issue and not a council issue. Then I spoke to one

of the police who was prepared to set up this working group:" This was 18 months ago. The group, which, curiously, seems

Councillor Lynda Thorne is where it is going to be and side and the river on the other. problem and says she's not go- has an answer. Her phone rings they don't want it in their ward so they'd rather the whole thing went away."

a proposal and invite me to go on patrol. I arrive on a wickedly cold night. Who would be out no one. Then the radio crackles with the news that a prostitute named Michelle has been arrested. She has failed to turn



A prostitute in Cardiff: The city's problem is they won't go away, but where can they go? Photograph: Christoper Jones

to have to official status, is times. Perhaps she has views on made up of health authority workers, Mrs Thorne, residents and police. A council official is helping to put together a report, apparently because the police couldn't provide anyone. Mrs Thorne repeats that she is not representing the council. It is all very sensitive, she says.

Take what happened when the tolerance zone idea hit the local headlines. Everyone started to speculate about the site for a zone and Mrs Thorne asked if she could look into this for the council. "They said 'You're not going to put it in my ward!

"That's what happens. The minute you raise it up, people are not interested in the principle. All they are interested in police station, they detry there is a proposal for such a zone. But, a few miles away at Fairwater nick, they say there is such

in such rain? The police think up for court appearances 18

adding:"I wouldn't like this going on in front of my house." These women are JIII Coles's clients. She works for the health authority as an outreach worker for prostitutes. Her card introduces her as "The Rubber Woman". She sits on the tolerance zone committee and describes herself as a realist: Street prostitution will always exist. Unless you can actually modify men, then you are always going to have it." The key, she says, is to make it as safe as possible. "It's not

Michelle wouldn't be in the cells

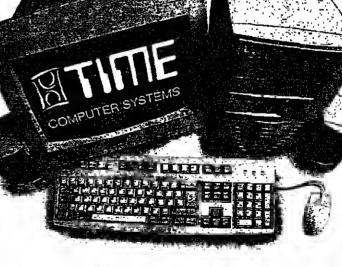
an easy thing to do, to change, and expectations for this zone shouldn't be too high. Punters may be frightened to start with a tolerance zone. But Michelle's and some women may think views only come in four-letter Why should I be told where to words and centre around spendwork?' But, if at the end of an ing the night in the cells. agreed time, it isn't working. If there was a tolerance zone then we could stop it. Nothing here, the night would have k written in tablets of stone." been very different. For starters,

because she wouldn't have been believes the media attention has arrested in the first place. Our killed the proposal. The police tour would have been boring besay they cannot be tolerant because such zones are in induscause soliciting is against the trial areas and sound rather law. The residents - who are split on the idea of a zone - say Cardiff still feels unsafe in its the police aren't that great. red-light areas. One is in the bay The girls blame life in general for pretty much everything. All redevelopment area and won't these words and still, wheo Mrs be around for much longer. The other two - Taffs Mead Em-Sexton looks out her front window, she doesn't like what she bankment and Fitzhamon Embankment - have houses on one sees. It's a problem.

INDEPENDENT WIN THIS HIGH SPEC MULTIMEDIA PC At one end is a low hrick wall that the girls, some as young as 14, sit on. It is thought that the If you call Cardiff's Central bay women will be coming to the embankments soon. The Taffs Mead area is par-

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Blair's snake-oil democracy

WHAT DO MPs do all day? It's an unfair question, of course, hecause most of them work very hard-albeit on tasks which would make a strange definition of "work" for most of their constituents: sympathising, speechifying, looking serious, politicking.

But is it unfair for the Labour Party to dictate to its 417 MPs the terms and conditions of their employment. As we report today, the party is working on "contracts" which would set out what MPs are expected to do in terms of talking to and visiting their voters in return for support from party HQ. Above all, it would seem. Labour MPs are to be required to engage in a programme of "voter contact" which should see them on the doorsteps of their constituency for two hours every weekend and every day for two weeks when Parliament is not sitting in the summer. On the knocker or the phone. Labour MPs are expected to contact 100 new households on their patch every week. The maths of the petty dictators of Millbank Tower are impeccable: over the five year maximum period between elections, that would amount to 26,000 households. Their politics, though, are faulty. MPs are, after all, employed by the people themselves, not by the people's party.

Of course, it is no use arguing that this is not what parliamentarians are used to. Everything, in the New Labour dawn, has to be justified afresh from first principles. Even so, the bossy management-school jargon emanating from Millbank has infuriated many Labour MPs - especially those elected before 1997, or those elected unexpectedly in seats which were not even on the party's target list. The more pompous among them mutter about parliamentary privilege. The older ones recall Tony Benn's attempted "loyalty pledge" in 1980, intended to commit every MP and candidate to every dot and comma of the National Executive's entire programme.

Both have a point, although we are not overly impressed. It is not a bad idea to set out more clearly what is expected of MPs. If we helieve what we read in the papers, new MPs are suffering stress and arciety simply because they do not know what their role is. Academic literature is full of learned articles on the growing volume of correspondence, the declining effectiveness of surgery work, the professionalisation of politics - all of which raises the question; what does democratic representation mean today?

Peter Mandelson, the Prime Minister's "minister for looking ahead", thought aloud interestingly about this at a seminar at the British embassy in Bonn last month. It may be that the era of pure representative democracy is slowly coming to an end." he said. By implication he accused the western European elites of being out of touch with their electorates, especially on the question of European integration, and suggested they should rely more on opinion polls, focus groups and referendums - us New Labour

This got up the noses of the Germans, but was of a piece with Tony Blair's pamphlet Leading the Way also published last month, which set out an ambitious programme of reform for local government, organised around the idea that local politicians should show "leadership" by opinion poll, local referendum and citizens' juries.

This is a strange notion of leadership, and points to a fundamental flaw at the heart of the New Labour idea of democracy. Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson are right that the old mechanisms are worn out, but there is an alarming tendency on their part to confuse democracy with marketing. We have seen it in the slow hollowing-out of Mr Blair's rhetoric, circa 1993-94, about a vibrant Labour Party, a democratic part of its local communities. Contrast that with the disappointing centralism of the system of closed party lists which has become Labour's default form of proportional representation - for the European Parliament, Scotland, Wales and London. It is quite extraordinary that the Conservative Party will have a more democratic system than Labour of choosing its MEPs next year. The Tories will decide the all-important ranking of candidates on the ballot paper by one | er members of the Security Council Resolution 986), 30 per they went to the science department member, one vote ballot: Labour will fix it in caucuses of regional dele-

In this light, it seems as if Labour MPs are being recruited to a vast exercise in the selling of Mr Blair's snake-oil (not to mention being kept busy to he hetter kept out of mischief). "Voter contact" does not sound like a genuine exercise in participatory democracy, more like highly structured and efficient soft soap.

We have too many MPs and they cannot all declaim majestically, with electric flashes of Wildean wit, of course, on the Great Issues of the Day all day and every day. Their pastoral role is important, but it must be a two-way contract between the people and their representatives.

What the people want from public art

"THERE IS nothing I can do about home helps. If someone in government would sort that out, my life would be a lot easier." Ah, the dilemmas of the modern artist. On page 15, Shona Kinloch tries to deflect criticism of her statue The Sock in Loughborough. Some of the locals would rather have spent the £23,000 on getting meals on wheels to pensioners. Well. there will always be other ways of spending money than on art, even if "someone in government" ensured that everyone got the best home-help service possible. Ms Kinloch's life is not supposed to be easy: what is interesting is that hers is one of a new wave of mostly rather folksy statuary paid for from the vast mountain of lottery money. Her figure in Loughborough, historic centre of hosiery (hence the footwear), contrasts with the abstract metal shapes that invite incomprehension and graffiti. The only way to deal with the home-help argument, in fact, is to make the sort of art people want. Even if it does mean that her male figure boasts a strategically placed



Sanctions on Iraq

ANDREW MARR (Comment, 21 April) sets out the case for abandoning sanctions against Iraq as a "cruel and utterly pointless" policy.

People often assume that sanctions are designed to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Not so. They are linked to the demands made by the Security Council after his invasion of Kuwait. These range from dismantling Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and Iraq's capability to rebuild them, to paying compensation to the victims of the invasion, to accounting for the over 600 missing Kuwaitis. Iraq could have complied in months. Instead. Saddam Hussein has defied the international community for over seven years.

The results for the Iraqi people have been truly terrible. But whose treme (letter, 18 April). fault is this? Since 1991 we and othhave pushed to put in place arrangements which would allow food, medicines and other humanitarian assistance to flow freely to the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein refused to allow this to happen until 1996. Even now, Iraqi co-operation is less than wholehearted.

There is a genuine dilemma about how to help the people of a country where the regime is intent not on relieving their suffering but on using the misery of its citizens as a political bargaining tool. It is a dilemma which has been addressed at the Humanitarian Meeting in London this week. There are no easy answers. But we and other concerned governments are determined to ensure that the Iraqi people receive the humanitarian assistance they need. Sanctions can be lifted - when Iraq finally complies with the Security Council's demands. Meanwhile, they are forcing Saddam to give up his horrifying arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and making him less of a threat to his neighbours and to his own people.

The premature lifting of sanctions. without fragi compliance with its international obligations would be short-sighted and highly destabilising for a region where Britain and the EU have vital interests. It is a battle of wills: the will of the international com-

LETTERS

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less dictator. The outcome has implications which go far beyond Iraq. DEREK FATCHETT Minister of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office London SW1

FOR the Kuwaiti embassy to send a cheque for £5000 to The Independent's Iraq appeal and to claim that "the international community as a whole has shown great concern for the Iraqi people" is cynical in the ex-

Under "oil-for-food" (Security cent of the money raised through the at Baghdad University, it was in such emirate. A further 10 per cent pays for UN monitoring. Thus at least 40 per cent of the (in itself wholly inadequate) \$2 bn worth of oil that Iraq is permitted to sell every six months is being deliberately diverted away from providing humanitarian aid

for the Iraqi people. No country could reasonably be expected to surrender its principal national resource to an international body dominated by a power (the US) overtly and covertly committed to the overthrow of that country's government.

GABRIEL CARLYLE Junior Research Fellow Magdalen College, Oxford

RICHARD BUTLER, heading the UN Weapons Inspectorate, is quoted as saying that Iraq has failed to give a "full and complete" statement regarding bio-weapons programmes - "They blew it" - again raising the possibility of a strike against Iraq (Andrew Marr, 21 April).

The list of sites visited by the numerous teams of experts since 1991 runs to thousands and frequently to farce. In June 1997 a special team was

his promises versus the will of a ruth- burial place. There are no inscriptions or headstones, just large square blocks of stone laid like a chess board, with a simple iron handle in the centre of each, with which to manoeuvre them into place. The inspectors probed the site extensively - after scarching the nuns' bedrooms and even the convent roof. From a spy plane or satellite monitor, the site would look similar

> are far too small. I was in Iraq in December 1997 when Scott Ritter's fearless lads raided a creche - and in February when they searched an orphanage. When a pathetic state after seven years of sanctions, they laughed. And then threw out most of the few remaining books. Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?

> to a missile silo - except that the blocks

FELICITY ARBUTHNOT

Policing charities

AS HEAD of the statutory body charged by Parliament with oversight of the charitable sector I must correct what your report "Charities to be policed by new watchdog" (16 April) says about the Charity Commission's role and powers.

Our aim is to maintain public confidence in the integrity of charities and our powers to do this go far beyond registering charities and receiving and checking their accounts". New powers effectively starting to operate this year are enabling us to increase the active supervision of registered charities in England and Wales.

The monitoring requirement, under which all registered charities with an income of over £10,000 a year must send us a report and accounts annually, is in its first cycle and going well. Contrary to your report this is an active process. We pursue isflown from Washington to inspect a sucs of administration, financial Cutholic convent. The simplicity of the control and legal integrity. We enmunity to hold Saddam Hussein to lives of the nuns is reflected in their courage good practice and seek to

prevent problems. However, where problems do arise, and in particular where there is deliberate abuse, we have - and use - very substantial powers to put things right.

The Charity Commission is not

complacent, but I do not believe that there is evidence of falling public confidence in charities. The exceptional problems which attract disproportionate public attention and which we use our powers to remedy - do not justify undermining that confidence. The sector is not complacent either. There is an important national initiative, sponsored by the London SE4 National Council for Voluntary Organisations, to study ways in which be encouraged. We are co-operating closely with this minative. RIFRIES

Chief Charity Commissioner Charity Commission London SWI

Taken ill in America

NO ONE familiar with the American health system ("US hospital refused to help British girl who broke her arm", 20 April) would be at all surprised that a child could be denied hospital treatment without a cash deposit. American friends of mine took their niece to hospital in California with a hadly broken arm and were refused entry because their medical insurance was not with the company owning the hospital. They were directed to a different hospital 40 miles away through the mountains.

What is surprising about this incident, however, is that British al Health Service, continue to travel without insurance to countries with very expensive health care and apparently expect to receive treatment free of charge.

Techno-terror SO "The Independent is totally de-

pendent on computers" (leading article, 17 April). Silly me - I thought it was written and produced by human beings. Your leader really is an insult to those of us who are terrified of computers, and regard them as neither indispensable nor straightforward to use. The attempts I have made to use these unfathomable machines have all ended in tears. Now I can even be excluded from studying for another degree, solely because I cannot participate in electronic wizardry. Some people even consider me, and the Prime Minister for that matter, to be thus not truly educated.

This letter is hand-written and sent via the Royal Mail - and thus presumably unfit for publication. DAVID L SEYMOUR

A pole in the head

WAS intrigued to see in your front page photograph on 21 April Tony Blair and Yasser Arafat as exemplars of the latest fashion in diplomatic dress code - the carrying of flagpoles on the head. And it was good to note that in the interest of suppressing nationalism the two leaders had swapped flags.

From a technical point of view, I would assume that Mr Arafat's pole is supported by a structure in his head-dress, but Mr Blair's appears to have no such apparatus - is the pole inserted directly into the skull? IULIEN EVANS Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Where the buck stops

DONALD DEWAR has emphatically revived the long-forgotten doctrine of the buck stopping at the top, in calling for the immediate departure of the Grampian Chief Constable. Dr Ian Oliver. Will his tourists, accustomed to the Nation- colleague Jack Straw take the same view in regard to Commissioner Sir Paul Condon if, as seems likely, the Stephen Lawrence inquiry finds similar incompetence in a murder case by the Metropolitan Police? **BOB RODWELL** Ballyhalbert, Co Down

Cool Britannia? Forget it – and build yourself a Crisp new style



I DON'T want to get drawn into this Cool Britannia debate, for the very good reason that there is no debate. There is nothing to talk about. Ben Elton is right. It's a load of nonsense. There is nothing there. One might as well discuss astrology or Atlantis, or Britpop, or argue about the accuracy of the X-Files. The whole

thing is non-existent. Right, that settles that, and we could all go home now, were it not for two things. One is that I have some more space to fill and it will look very odd if f stop this article here.

The other is the worrying impression I get from all this Cool Britannia thing that people nowadays think that style and fashion are the same thing. To read many magazines for both women and men you would think that the only way to be stylish is to be in the swim ... have the right accessories ... wear the right things and go to the right places ... be in the "in"

Well, that is the way to be fashionable. But there is nothing stylish about it. Style and fashion are two different things. Maybe they are opposites. Quentin Crisp always thought so. He once wrote a book called How to Have a Lifestyle - which I would call seminal if I had ever met anyone apart from me who had read it - in which he makes the irresistible point that a person who has style is someone who has established his own identity, cultivates it and sticks to it. Style comes from being yourself as far as you possibly can, and ignoring fashion.

Style, as Crisp said, is for people who know who they are. Fashion is for people who don't know or care who they are, and are prepared to let other people tell them who they are. Take hair loss. If you are tashionable, you fight against baldness using any weapon you can. If you are stylish and you start to go hald, you shave your hair off and make your haldness stylish. Style is the opposite of fashion. Julian Clary has style. The Spice Girls have nothing in common with style. Stephen Fry has style. Peter Stringfellow ..

I once saw Quentin Crisp doing his stage show at the Mavfair Theatre, inviting questions from the audience about life, and one man got up and said: "I have tried following all your advice, Mr Crisp, but I cannot get away from the fact that I am still a boring person. What should I do?" "Cultivate your boringness," said Crisp.

"Become the most spectacularly boring person in your circle. When people throw parties they should say. We must invite old so-and-so - he's so rivetingly boring - no party is complete without him!"

But the hardest thing of all, said Crisp, was to execute a complete change of style.

from one spectrum end to the other. Hav- ure, a media guru with outlandish specing established yourself as a sinner or a fool, it is not easy to become a saint or a sage. Yet it is possible. In our own times we have seen Michael Winner go from being a film director to a man who no longer makes films, but is only a ubiquitous TV and radio guest - indeed, his reputation is now so firmly established as a ubiquitous guest that he no longer needs to turn up. I myself have heard his uniquity referred to fifty times for every once I have actually seen

The examples are many. Michael Palin went from being a famous young clown to being a famous middle-aged traveller. Cilla Black was once a cheeky singing teenager and has completed the transition to everyone's favourite aunt. Perhaps the most extreme change of style in recent months was that of Janet Street-Porter. For years she was thought to be a totally urban fig-

tacles, accent and legs. Suddenly she reemerged as the head of the Ramblers' Association, for all the world like a tall country head prefect fighting for the sanctity of wild places. It was a wonderful, perverse transition, and in her series Coast to Coast nobody seemed to think it odd that this long-legged, trendily-bespectacled, heavily Cockney sergeant-major can now be seen striding through the byways of rural England, not always, it has to be said, paying much attention to the countryside. or saying much about it:

The oddest change of style of all is that of Andrew Lloyd-Webber, who seems tobe trying to establish a new image as a restaurant critic, which might be original if Rossini hadn't been so much better a cook and a chef all those years ago ...

Good heavens - is that the time? See



Let children do the important homework: Taking credit for idling, dreaming, being themselves failure in China



SUZANNE MOORE ON LABOUR'S **WORK ETHIC**

ANYONE with any sense realises the value of making children do homework. Unless children were made to do homework they would never learn the skills essential to working life. They would not learn how to lie, to make excuses, cheat and feign illness. "The dog ate my exercise book, sir transmutes in later life into car breakdowns, hervous break downs or computer hreakdowns that will explain why you are late again.

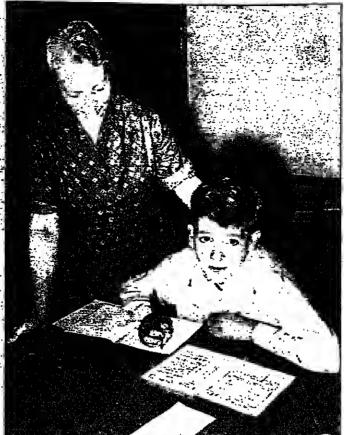
David Blunkett, though, has done his homework and has now come np with a set of guidelines about just how much work children should be doing in their spare time. Some of this may be helpful. Many parents are genuinely confused about how much homework their children should be doing and are always demanding more of the awful stuff. These guidelines set out amounts for various ages. From the moment they set foot in school the should be "kett's lottery-funded, study supportdoing ten minutes of homework a day. Now, we can call this palayer homework, and it can be set by an overworked teacher, or we could just read

really start until you were at secondary school, and then only in the years when kids are being geared up to jump through various exam hoops. I am apparently wrong. Ten year olds should be getting regular homework. Mr. Blunkett said, "I am concerned thataccording to a National foundation for-Educational Research survey, 43 per cent of all ten year olds get no regular homework, yet over half often year olds spend three or more hours a night watching TV." Like so much Labour policy there is far too much concern with what people shouldn't be doing because we know exactly what it that they should be doing: working

This is the solution to every social problem. Work is good, no matter what kind. We must work whether we are single mothers, disabled or four years of age. Leisure is a waste of time. If children watch TV they are certainly getting the wrong idea, the idea being that they may organise their own spare time. You wouldn't want children sitting around doing nothing now, would you?

Well yes. Some one has to make the case for doing nothing. And if children aren't allowed to skive and daydream, what hope can there be for the rest of us? Most children already work all day at school and do some more in the evenings. My daughter who goes to a comprehensive in Hackney often works fate into the night. She and her friends look exhausted. Do they really need to be doing this amount of homework, I ask myself.

That's fine, you might say. What about the kids who are not given homework, whose parents do not know or care if they do it? Surely Bluncentres are a good thing. Yes of course, though I suspect the average parent would prefer direct investment in education, rather than in the support structures outside of school. - As we pile the pressures upon chil-



Go on, supervise that homework Hulton Getty

dren, many of whom are exhibiting ing. The child must be entertained or educated at all times, as though we disstress-related disorders, we should ask ourselves about the real value of trust and fear what children might be homework. The skills that are inwere they left to their own devices.

While structured learning is back in vogue as the answer to the failures of boys within the current education system, not everyone responds to such structure. Indeed, while this government pins its hope on work as morally uplifting, it is in the world of non-work, formerly known as leisure. where the money is to be made,

The modern work-place requires people who can organise their own

time, and yet the capacity to do so will be denied to our children. Our anxiety also gives rise to certain misconceptions about way that children do learn. There will always be some Cook's claims things, such as multiplication tables, that have to be learnt by rote. In other areas, such as literacy, skills so not necessarily develop in an orderly and foreign policy linear fashion. In fact children make cognitive leaps at various stages and much to the chagrin of the flash-card wielding middle ciasses not a lot can be done to speed this up.

Teachers have explained to me that if teenage children do all their homework, it is the equivalent of an extra day at school a week. I have politely asked why children should work a six day week. If our children haven't enough time to be taught all that they need to be taught, why not make the school day an hour longer and let their free time actually be free. As The Little Red School Book said many moons ago: "As well as organising the time you spend at school, schools also try to organise some of your free time."

To be honest though, my concern about children being allowed time off is also rather selfish. If parents have tu make contracts with schools, ensuring that their children produce enough work, parents themselves will have more to do in the evening, which is not a pleasant prospect.

If schools shift the burden away from themselves and on to parents, education becomes even more riddled with inequality. Blunkett and New Labour may wish to turn ordinary people into over-anxious, middle-class parents hravely struggling with encyclopedias and CD Roms they can't quite get to grips with. The kids who need the most help are bound to get the least, while their more affluent counterparts will suffer from hyper-stimulation. And who will teach them one of life's most important lessons; that you can be fulfiled and husy doing nothing?

hloes, it would make particular sense

for the UK for we could see which way

our trade naturally went, free from ar-

tificial constraints. If we found that our

trade, visible and invisible, tended to

swing towards Nafta, then we would

benefit from that; if on the other hand

it tended towards Europe, then that

option, for it stops us having to choose.

But if we did have to chose? Well, my

gut feeling is that, looking backwards

over the last 30 years we may well have

been right in choosing Europe: we had

no option, for focusing on the Com-

monwealth was clearly no longer a vi-

able choice, and there was no Nafta to

join. Looking ahead, however, it seems

to me the scales are tipping the other

Ionathan Mirsky examines Robin for his 'ethical

THE Foreign Office's Human Rights report, issued yesterday, is misguided but serious. But the Foreign Secretary, Rohm Cook, made himself ridiculous after the report was issued by taking credit for the release of China's two most famous dissidents. Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan.

Speaking on the BBC's The World at One, Mr Cook recalled that in January he was in Beijing. He had with him a list of 12 political prisoners. Two of the people on that list, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, have now been released," he said. Mr Cook is not at his best with these fists. Mr Wei was freed on 16 November. And in March, when Mr Cook showed Mr Wei another list of political prisoners. and asked him for any information about their circumstances, Mr Wei pointed out that he was at the top.

This is symptomatic of how Britain deals with Beijing on human rights. The FCO's report highlights its "new dialogue on human rights with China" emphasising that dialogue, not confrontation, gets results. The Chinese now receive a "wideranging package of practical assistance", including legal training and village governance. "China also participated in a seminar on human rights in Beijing with the EU, signed the International Covenant on Economic. Social, and Cultural Rights, and "is preparing to sign" the one on Civil and Political Rights. The report mentions, too, lobbying for individual cases" such as Wei Jingsheng's.

Individual cases are the easiest to understand. Bluntly, the UK had nothing to do with the release of Mr Wei last November, or that of Wang Dan oo Sunday. Their releases were the result of deals between Washington and Beijing. The A giant free trade area is the ideal deal for Mr Wei was that he would be released in November. immediately after President Jiang received a full-scale White House welcome. The Wang release was part of the price for President Clinton visiting Beijing in June; the rest of the price was China agreeing to sign the Civil and Political Rights Covenant. The US agreed to give up sponsoring the annual UN resolution on human rights

in China - and Britain and the rest of the EU went along.

Mr Wei points out that while manoeuvres and deals in which this or that individual benefits are good for the victim - hut cannot be considered Rights. This was made clear in Beijing on Monday, Wang Dan's release, a spokesman emphasised, was for medical reasons only. If he returned to China he would not be a free man. This was stated as well when Mr Wei was released, also for a flight to a hospital in Detroit, now waggishly dubbed the "Northwest Airlines Non-stop to Exile."

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On Monday, the day after Wang Dan's release, China showed its contempt for the game by sentencing to two years in prison Wang Tingjin. a middle school teacher, charged with "disturbing social urder". He had spoken with an exiled dissident, who had entered China in February, is not a criminal, and carries a Chinese passport. How is the "legal training" the FCO describes going to help school-teacher Wang? Or the handful of other dissidents arrested this month - whose names are not widely known in the West, so they will not be so valuable to the Chinese in obtaining concessions.

The judges are taking their orders from the Party which is not consulting a "wide-ranging package," Suppose Beijing signs the Covenant which includes Culture, What effect will that have on Chen Kuiyuan, Party Secretary in Tibet? Last August Mr Chen described the notion that Tibetan culture is Buddhist as "absurd". Quoting Mao, he emphasised that "in inheriting a a culture it is necessary to discard its dross."

What Beijing reacts to is pressure. After Tiananmen, international sanctions resulted in the release of hundreds of prisoners. The American fleet stopped invasion manoeuvres near Taiwan in March, 1996. By banning them from competition, international sporting bodies frighteocd China's swimmers into stopping their drug-taking.

In March, Mr Cook stood next to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she warned the Serbian regime to stop its murders in Kosovo. "If we don't get the kind of result we want, we need to remember that the only kind of pressure President Milosevic understands is the kind that imposes a real price on his unacceptable behaviour." Secretary Albright added words neither Britain nor the US are willing to apply to China. "Moral condemnation and symbolic gestures of concern will get us nowhere."

There is an alternative to joining the euro

creasingly in demand are visual, social

and creative: the very skills that may

develop precisely from having noth-

ing to do. Adam Phillips, in his book

On Kissing, Tickling and Being Bored,

has written of the virtues of boredom

for children; the mental space it pro-

vides out of which creativity may

flow. Yet the relentless thrust of so

much modern parenting is activity-

centred, about doing rather than be-



HAMISH MCRAE ON LOOKING BEYOND EUROPE

WE NEED a Plan B, and we should ... ment. But there would, apparently, be be grateful to Newt Gingrich for sug. a movement in both legislatures to put gesting one.

Plan A. of course, is Britain's membership of the EU, with all this entails. and all it may entail in the future. It is conceivable that the plans for a single currency will be a success, at least for a while. It is conceivable, too, that Britain will feel adequately comfortable joining in the single currency if that is required of us at some stage in the first part of the next century as a condition of continued membership of the EU. But it is also conceivable that the euro will nut be a success, or that we might not be prepared to accept the pooling . of sovereignty that would result.

the success of the euro or to take any not turn our back on that. particular position on Britain and the single currency. It is simply to say that to operate with a fall-back position. We would be mad not to do so.

This is why we should take very seriously: the suggestion this week of prowing forms of trade are in goods and Newt Gingrich speaker of the US should consider joining Nafta, the North American Free Trade Association. He is not the first top North American politician to suggest this: a few months ago Preston Manning, the Canadian opposition leader, proposed that Britain should be invited to join. This is not yet the official policy of the US administration, nor of the Canadian governforward some formal invitation if Britain were indeed serious about joining.

We are not there yet - we do not need to make a decision at the moment, nor indeed could we do so, for joining Nafta would conflict with treaty obligations with the EU. But it is an option that deserves serious consideration. Indeed in many ways it is potentially a more attractive one than remaining in

To say that will seem odd to many people. Physical proximity would seem to run counter to the notion: we cannot until Britain and drag it half-way across the Atlantic. And more than half

To say this is not to prejudge either our visible trade is with the EU: we can-

But to focus on the links of physical proximity and visible trade is to take any prodent organisation will always try a curiously old-fashioned view of the world. Physical proximity matters less and less in an era of cheap air travel and cheap air freight, and the fastestservices with zero transport costs and

rope. For purely demographic reasons, it will be a faster-growing region over the next 50 years. The US has just become the youngest of the Group of Seven nations, measured by the proportion of population under the age of 65; Britain becomes the second youngest around 2010; Canada is young too, and of course Mexico is younger still.

Not only will Nafta be faster-grow-House of Representatives, that Britain instant delivery: trade in things like soft- ing, it will also be larger. Much has been ware or financial services. In the world made of the fact that the EU group has of the Internet, distance is dead. We a larger population than the Nafta one, are moving to a world defined by cul- and that its GDP is almost as hig. Switch

............ Newt Gingrich suggests that Britain might join the North American Free Trade Association

ture and language rather than one defined by physical location.

Besides, though more than half our physical trade is with the EU, more than 80 per cent of our investments are outside the EU, and the largest single proportion of these are in the US. Britain has now become the second largest earner of investment income in the world after Japan. We need to protect our trade income, but we need to buttress our investment income too.

There are other reasons for suspecting that, given the choice, we might be wiser to try to tie the UK economy to North America rather than Eumakes a great deal of sense for both

Britain (which is roughly 5 per cent of world GDP) to Nafta and Nafta becomes significantly higger than the EU. You can begin to see why it might he quite attractive to Nafta to have Britain as a member: if things become rough, better to be a member of the higger

Let's hupe they don't hecome rough, for the ideal solution would be for there to be a general free trade agreement between Nafta and the EU, creating a giant free trading area. Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the EU, has been pushing fur this and it

way. The revolution in communications in particular has tilted the balance in favour of cultural and financial links rather than physical trading ones. And it will tilt it further in the years to come. At the very least, we should quiet-

would be fine too.

be exploring the Nafta option, building contacts among all the members, assessing the costs and benefits now. and looking at the dynamics of international trade - how it might develop in the future, rather than how it has developed in the past. We have been ask to think about it by very important North American politicians. We would be mad not to accept their suggestions graciously, and take them very seriously

Lessons from South Africa for peacemakers in Northern Ireland

ared dead bian cras Nelson Mandela tells peace can be won in Ulster by men and women who put their -children's future first

> THE headlines, dominated by the doings in distant Belfast, have prompted in many of us South Africans an unexpected rush of nostalgia - and gut optimism. The nostalgia I feel watching the Northern Ireland peace process taking its shaky solo steps comes from having "been there" many years ago: the optimism, from baving seen it all work out for us, fractiously but fantastically, in the end.

If any nation in the world understands the interlocking, alternating layers of doubt and hope, fear and euphoria, the unsettlement of a people beginning to think the unthinkable, it is we South Africans who lived through the terrifying, terrific transition from partneid to democracy.

We watch the ink drying on the Stor-

comes next, as leaders who have only just convinced themselves to take the leap now have to sell the plan to the people outside. We counsel three things: fortitude, limitless patience, and (we like our sporting metaphots here) the ability to sidestep.

The similarities and the differences between our completed scattlement and Northern Ireland's embryonic one have been picked over endlessly. The differences are as important as the similarities, and only the foolish stretch the parallels too far, searching for the Irish Mandela, the De Klerk, the Buthelezi. They will not be found, nor should they be - for while the grand theme of reconciliation may be universal, the nature of its achievement is not.

But now that the point has been reached in Northern Ireland where principled agreement must give way to the process itself, some of the lessons we learned - especially the one about the sidestep - are worth revisiting.

Take fortitude first, that noun meaning courage in endurance. The South African process required extraordinary endurance, not least because of the wild mood swings that characterised our country from the moment of "breakthrough" (in our case the release of Nelson Mandela) - and which, tellingly, still make a reappearance from time to time. mont agreement with the eyes of ex- It was endurance which eventually perience. We are familiar with what saw to it that the implacable radicals

of the right and left - those who actually did not want the peace - were marginalised, and Mandela's broad new 'centre" cohered. It took an awfully long time and all bets were off, often. Our process took four years, more

or less. It felt like a hundred then, though now it is remembered as the blink of an eye. The peoples' patience is thinner even than the politicians': at one brief point, heresy of heresies, the greatest threat to achieving a negotiated settlement seemed to be public boredom. The grand declamatory speeches are few and far between, and the between is filled with uninspiring minutiae, occasional mendacity and a rich vein of pettifoggery.

In South Africa it was left to the US ambassador of the time to point out that by comparison with the labours of his country's founding fathers, our negotiators were fairly bounding along. It didn't feel like that to us, but we took the point: four years in the life of a country is nothing if forever is at stake.

Which brings us to the sidestep. If one tactic, one mechanism, saw through to its conclusion the South African negotiating process, it was the ability to circumvent one problem temporarily while continuing to make progress on others. Whenever - and it was often an issue became too intractable for progress to be made, and tempers became too frayed, the negotiators simply moved away from it for a while in public at least.

Although we must beware stretching the parallels between the two situations, we can listen to the echoes There was a time in South Africa when it appeared that the entire peace process would collapse over one issue: whether or not the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto weSizwe, would hand in its arms caches. We didn't use words like "decommissioning", but I think we understand them. I remember the early hours of a win-

ter's morning in 1990 on the Highveld, with a knot of us transition-chroniclers huddled on the steps of the Union Buildings in Pretoria, smoking cigareties and speculating as the meeting inside went beyond its twelfth hour. The issue of the arms caches had become the greatest test of the South African negonated settlement - the majority school of thought was that as neither side was going to hudge, that was pretty much going to be it. Peace would be cancelled, war resumed.

It was not so. A rickety ceasefire was fashioned without resolving the cache question, but it was enough at the time. As the process moved far ahead on its own impetus, the caches were never mentioned again - the success of the wider negotiations reodered the issue effectively irrelevant.

The point is a simple one: if an ob-

stacle is too hig to climb, just go around it. Strangely - and you will have to trust us on this - it doesn't look so big from the other side. Eventually it is a dot in the distance for a backward glance, then you can't see it any more if you keep walking.

But don't take any of this from me. I was just lucky enough to have had a front-row seat as our country made its long, argumentative leap of faith. Listen rather to the architect of our stillmiraculous transition. This week I asked President Nelson Mandela if he thought the glue, still not set at this crucial early stage, could hold in Northern Ireland as it had in South Africa.

Mandela replied: "As long as there arc men and women on all sides who are able to rise above feelings for revenge, men and women who can put the future of their children first, who can put terrible episodes behind them in order to move on, this process can work as ours eventually did.

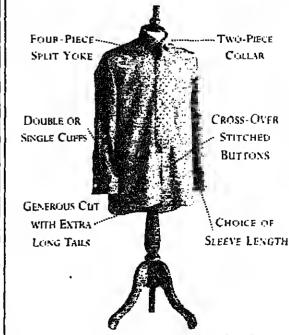
"I have great respect for all the leaders in the Northern Ircland negotiations, and I hope that their supporters on all sides will be persuaded that this peace must be achieved.

"It will take a long time. There will be many disappointments. But it can be done if the will is unshakeahlc."

Shaun Johnson is editorial director of Independem Newspapers in South Africa.

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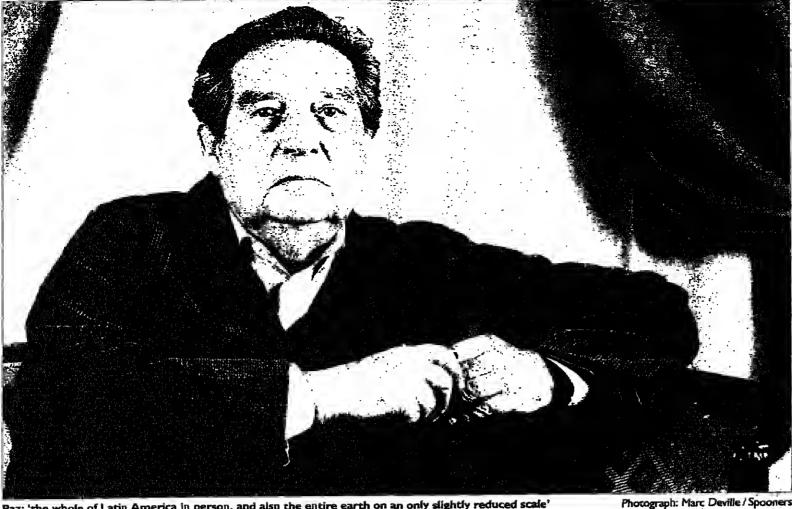
THE WORD - or the lack of it - is at the heart of the prosc and poetry of the Mexican genius Octavio Paz. "In order to be able to speak, learn to be silent" was one of his bestknown aphorisms. Paz was a man of words, and a man of silences.

The silences, which he often claimed were the most important things taught him by his reading of Chinese and Japanese literature, were not always in evidence. His voluble Latin temperament would not allow him to stay silent for very long. He was one of the most generous and extravagant wordspenders I have ever known. When I tirst met him during his brief appearance at the Avignon Festival in 1952, I felt totally inundated by his tremendous gift of the gab, a garrulous hotchpotch of French, English, Spanish and Portuguese with bits of Greek and Russian, all delivered in a singularly resonant and musical voice that fascinated me so much, I neglected to pay attention to the meaning of what he was saying, and only came down to earth when he suddenly stopped his seemingly unstoppuble flow and demanded, "Why don't you say something."

When Paz was born in 1914. Mexico was in the throes of revolution. His mother took him away to the comparative safety of the village of Mixeoac, now long since engulfed by the spreading tennacles of the city. The boy's family on his mother's side was Spanish, from Andalusia: his grandmother had come from Puerto de Santa Maria, where the poet Rafael Alberti was born, and his grandfather from nearby Medina Sidonia, But Paz also had Mexican Indian blood, a fact he sonador ("Vigils: fragments was very proud of, It was to influence his whole life and art.

His Mexican father, from whom he derived his Indian descent, was a lawyer and a supporter of the revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, whose representative he became for a while in the United States, where Octavio spent his early childhood, an experience he was never to forget. But the tamily was ruined by the civil war, and Paz Though Paz found the lectures grew up in straitened circumstances. During his education at a Catholic school, he discovered that he was an atheist.

As a student at the University of Mexico, he became interested in politics of the lar left. and began writing. His first book come his literary idols. The orof poetry. Luna silvesme ("Svivan" attorical power of Paz's own



Paz: 'the whole of Latin America in person, and also the entire earth on an only slightly reduced scale'

tating in the Republican cause

and writing a column in El

Popular, the newspaper of the

Confederation of Mexican

Workers. He took on the direc-

tion of revues like Taller and

Hora de España in 1938 in which

he outlined many of his future

theories of poetry and its relation

to society and of the importance

In his 1967 essays Corriente

of love in the cause of peace.

from those early ideas;

fore his 20th hirthday, was a collection of half-baked romantic work. He also helped found the literary review Banandal, in which most of his early poems appeared. The tragic death of his father in 1934 produced Figdias: fragmentos del diario de un from the diary of a dreamer"). with beginnings of Surrealist imagery. The word "fragment" in the title also foretells the poet's future interest in fragmented forms, learnt from Oriental

literature and Aztee art.

In 1934 too Paz met Rafael Alberti, who was on a poetryreading and lecturing tour of Mexico. The impact of this meeting was overwhelming. horing, he was enthusiastic ahout Alberti's impassioned readings of his own verse and that of other modern Spanish poets like Lorca, Juan Larrea. Vicente Aleixandre and Miguel Hernandez, who were to he-

experience of hearing poetry read aloud by a master. His next book was Bajo m

clara sombra y otros poemas 1"Within your Clear Shadow and Other Poems", 1935), his first collection of poems exclusively on the erotic themes that were to become a major part of his work right to the end of his life. They were eventually included as the first two parts of the second edition of his most famous book, Libertad bajo palubra ("Liherty on Parole"). whose various editions with changing contents extended from 1935 to 1957. The poet's ideas on sex were often expressed in writing and conversation. Talking freely to Julian Rios in Solo a dos roces ("Solo for Two Voices", 1973], Paz declared:

Poetry is above all a sensuous form ... Eroticism is a social creation. Man makes love with his imagination, trangination renders palpable the phaniasms of desire. Thanks to the imagination, erotly desire always goes beyond animal sexuality... But pleasure is always mingled with sadism and masochism. There is an

Moon", 1933), published just be- readings derives from this first element of suffering inherent in eroticism, D.H. Lawrence tries to sac-ralise love, to give sex a sacred force. St John of the Cross is exactly the opposite. He's a mystic, but a mystic who approaches the love of God in terms that are completely carnal. The God of St John of the Cross is a physically

> On 18 July 1936, General Francisco Franco rose up against the Republican government of Spain. In the heat of the moment. Paz wrote his first politically "committed" poem, "No pasami!" ("They Shall Not Pass!"), which was very uneven in quality and was later omitted from his books. But it proclaimed his position, and the poem was noticed by Pahlo Neruda, who in 1937 invited him to the Congress of Antifascist Writers in Valencia, still a Republican stronghold. This was Paz's first real encounter with the poets of Spain and France - Louis Aragon, André Breton, Vicente Huidobro, Cêsar Vallejo, Miguel Hernandez and another great, mythical figure in modern Spanish poetry, the

nuda, whose autobiography, La realitad y el deseo ("Reality and Desire"). Paz discovered in Spain. When Cernuda took refuge in Mexico, he and Paz became close friends.

Octavio Paz was a genuine openly homosensual Luis Cer- Stone and Flower", 1941).

It was after this period that he returned to Mexico City, contracted his first marriage and again displayed the fullness of his social and political conscience by attending the Writers' Congress in Valencia, and, on his return to Mexico, mili-

socialist with high ideals for the welfare of the working man and the social underdogs, pachucos. who are today called chicanos. "I felt myself to be a chicuno and helieved that the chicano was a Mexican taken to extremes," he told Julian Rios, He composed in 1937 a series of neo-baroque sonnets, "Crepusculos de la ciudad" ("City Twilights") in which he expressed his discontent with the hypocrisies of city life and society. He founded a free school for the sons of workers and campesinos in Mérida, the capital of Yucatán, where he founded a "Comité pro-Democracia Española". The poetic fruit of this activity was his most ambitious poem on social themes and on the exploitation of the Yucatán native tribes, "Entre la picdra y la flor" ("Between

resolved in silence . . . There are two speech and the silence that sucpeeds h. In order to be silent one must

slightly reduced scale." This bore out my own initial imnature, Whitmanesque, his po- by Samuel Beckett. etry and prose lush, dense yet fluid, sweeping away all in its world, for a time teaching at path yet buoying it up, a great Harvard. He translated the pohis poetry he sometimes expressed conflicting opinions, insisting on something he considered to be an important huthe bnes.

Do I contradict myself? Very well then I contradict myself, (I am large, I contain multitudes)...

As for the diplomatic treadmill, Paz considered it simply as another life, a parallel life to the life of poetry. It did not stop him writing volumes of philosophical essays and literary and political criticism, including the very important El laberinto de la soledad ("The Labyrinth of Solitude", 1950), and ¿Aguila o sol? ("Eagle or Sun?", 1951).

Paz served as Mexico's ambassador to India from 1962 to 1968, when he also visited Japan, and wrote a number of haikuesque poems and the beautiful "Basho-an" about the haiku poet Basho's old hut in the Kyoto countryside. Similar haiku-like poems are in Ladera este ("Eastern Slope", 1970), with many poems about India.

alterna ("Alternating Current"). But personal sorrows ac-Paz made these profound statements about poetry developed companied his stay in India. In 1964, Luis Cernuda died, and Understanding a poem means, in the first place, hearing it. Reading a poem Paz wrote an elegy to this beloved friend, "La palabra edis hearing it with the eves; hearing it is seeing it with the ears. The poem ificante" ("The Edifying Word"). should provoke the reader; oblige him to listen - to listen to himself famenting a long friendship that only death could break. ... The poem is the passage from one silence to another – between the desire to say and the silence that unites Then he felt impelled to resign his ambassadorship in 1968, in protest against the bloody desire and saying . . . All speech is

slaughter of students by govermment troops on the Plaza de Tlatelolco in Mexico City. For a time he lived in Paris.

On his return to Mexico, Paz In 1945, Paz was invited to founded yet another literary reenter the diplomatic corps, and view. Vuelta. and continued his first posting was to Paris, travelling the world, for a time where he joined André Breton teaching at Harvard, His Sendas and the Surrealist group and de olas, a translation of Basho's met the Uruguayan poet Jules Narrow Road to the Deep North Supervielle, who remembered in collaboration with E. Havhim thus: "Paz is the whole of ashi, is the best work ever writ-Latin America in person, and ten on Basho and haikin first also the entire earth on an only appearing in Mexico in 1957 and then in 1970 in Spain. It affected my own work as much as pression of the poet: he was a had his Anthology of Mexican Posymphonic superman, a force of etry (1958) in a translation made

Paz continued travelling the

river of words, an avalanche of ems of William Carlos Williams passion, a tornado of images and and collected and translated poideas. His writing breaks through ems from various languages, inall the restraints imposed by gen- cluding Swedish. Portuguese, res and movements. "My essays French, Chinese and Japanese are journalism in the slow lane." in Versiones y diversiones (1974). he said, and in both his prose and He received innumerable prizes and awards, culminating in the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990. I saw him again in July 1992 at the Avignon Festival, man right, "the right to surrounded by old friends and self-contradiction". Paz was fond __making new ones, still "Seeking of Whitman's Song of Myself and for the Present" - the title of his Nobel acceptance speech - and still talking endlessly about poetry and politics, taking potshots at all the crypto-Marxists. with readings of great chunks of his work in the Chapelle Sainte Claire, to packed, enthusiastic audiences, and daily animatine an exhibition devoted to him in the Médiathèque Ceccano.

In one of his last collections, Arbol adentro ("The Tree Withm", 1987), Paz, the universal man, writes his own epitaph in the beautiful poem "Fraternidad": I am a man: I won't last long and night is enormous. But I look up on high:

I too am scripture and at this very moment one is spelling my name

James Kirkup

Octavio Paz, writer and diplomatist: born Mexico City 31 March 1914: Mexican Ambassadar to India 1962-68; Simón Bolivar Professor of Latin American Studies, Cambridge University 1970-71; Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry, Harvard University 1971-72; Nobel Prize for Literature 1990: married Elena Gamo (marriage dissolved), 1966 Marie José Tramini (one daughter); died Mexico City 19 April 1998.

Dr Jimmy Jefferiss

JIMMY JEFFERISS practised sion of the hospital when he medicine in venereology before the advent of antibiotics. He was involved in the treatment of patients during the syphilis and gonorrhoea epidemics of the Second World War, and built up at St Mary's Hospital, Paddingion, the largest venereal disease clinic in Europe. At a time when even many of those working in the field of venereology were judgemental. Jefferiss and the unit at St Mary's were remarkable for the tolerant approach which they had lowards patients.

He came to St Mary's in 1929 and graduated in 1935. On his retirement 40 years later. Jefferiss gave an interview to the

came for an interview in 1928:

I first came to Mary's on a windy day in July, coming round the corner of the South Wharf Road to approach the Medical School, which was party in the site of the current Lindo Wing, meeting a blast of wind, chaff and the smell of dried horse dung. In those days, when there was little nond transport, merchandise coming on to London via Paddington from the West either by rail or by barge was distributed by horse-drawn vans. The noise made by their steel wheels rin the granite block surface of the South Whart Road was deafening.

nent medical family. An ancestor, Dr Thomas Monro, had been the first physician superintendent of the Bethlem and Maudsley Infirmary, his lather Editor of the St Mare's Gazette, was a GP and he himself was the

Hospital and Medical School.

His life before the Second an affluent middle-class professional family. When he left and from that date continued to have a succession of cars, an Alvis, a Morgan, which he raced at Brooklands, and, when he became a Resident Medical Offieer in Kingston and Guildford in the late Thirties, a 4.5 litre Bentley. Apart from racing Jefferiss came from a promiat Brooklands he was also involved in hill climbs.

As he had joined the RAFVR in 1938, he was called up in September 1939, when he was the Clinical Assistant in He described his first impression of doctors to. Ophthalmology and an Assis-

be associated with St Mary's tant Medical Officer in the VD department. For five years he department at St Mary's. He was posted to the special treat-World War epitomised that of ment centre at RAF Holton in November 1939 and promoted to Squadron Leader in 1941. On Sedbergh School, he drove back his discharge in 1946, he reto Devon in his 1912 Stoever turned to St Mary's as the Registrar in Venereal Diseases and was appointed an NHS Consultant in Venereology at the onset of the Health Service in 1948.

Amicable, friendly, unassuming, Jefferiss was excellent at dealing with people. He had a very pleasant and charming clinical manner, and could relate well to patients of all ages and backgrounds. He worked well with other members of staff and easily established and retained their loyalty. In 1958, he was appointed the head of his

was the Deputy Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical School. He became treasurer of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases in 1959 and in 1962 was elected as President of the society.

In 1960, he was appointed to the Board of the International Union Against Venereal Diseases and Treponematosis. At the time, this was the sole international body advising the World Health Organisation on the care and treatment of venereal discases and treponematosis. He was Treasurer of the union from 1964 to 1971 and Secretary from 1971 to 1977.

On his retirement. Jefferiss established the Jefferiss Charitable Research Trust, which be-

established two academic de- young doctor was frequently Both departments and the young professors who were ap- . pointed to the Jefferiss Chairs have been extremely successful. Jefferiss lived to see not only the

came a major force in stimu-

advent of HIV/Aids infection, but also, to his great pleasure, the development of new antiretroviral drugs, which appear at last to be able to arrest the development of the disease and offer help and encouragement

to its sufferers. He remained Sec-

with many interests. Apart from lating academic research into his lifelong love of cars and moboth sexually transmitted dis- tor racing, he was a fine sailor eases and Aids. The charity and as a medical student and partments (one at St Mary's asked to crew in the yachts of Hospital Medical School, the the more successful surgeons other at Liverpool University). and gynaecologists of the 1930s. He shot for Mary's and was an avid collector of watercolours.

In February 1976, the Victoria and Albert Museum held an exhibition of paintings entitled "Dr Thomas Monro and his Associates". As well as being chief physician of the Bethlem Hospital (from 1792 to 1816). Monro had been an amateur watercolour artist and a patron of Turner and Girtin. Since Jimmy Jefferiss was a man ing and, on occasions, pur- April 1998.



Jefferiss: unassuming

chasing the paintings from this group he wrote the commentary for the exhibition catalogue. Willie Harris

Frederick James Gordon Jefferiss, physician: born London 4 February Jefferiss had devoted much of 1910; married 1944 Phyllis Green: retary of the trust until his death. his free time to tracing, locat- (one son); died Maidstone, Kent 6

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

FIXSEN: Heather Mars, on 19 April, aged 58 cears. Darling wife of Nick, and wonderful Mummy to Karen. Rachel and Guy. Funeral to be held on Friday 24 April at 1pm. 51 John the Baptist Church, Batheaston, Bath. GARLAND: Pegg., Born 23 May 1903, died peacefully 17 April 1998 at John Radeliffe, Höspital, Oxford, All friends welcome to join the family at the Quaker Meeting House, 42 St Gilles, Oxford, Thursday, 23 April,

TUFFIELD: (Tuffy John Christopher, best beloved, Cove. Wester Ross, died quite unexpectedly on 18 April al Raigmore Hospital, Increess Fu-neral Service at St Maetrobia Church, Poolewe, Ipm, Wednesday 22 April, Family flowers, Donations I de-sired to Sight Surers International.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATHS may be sent to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Birthdays

Mr Leo Abse, former MP, 81; Mr Eddie Albert, actor, 90: Sir Michael Atiyah, mathematician, 69; Sir Christopher Ball, former Warden, Keble College, Oxford, 63; Mr Lewis Biggs, Curator, Tate Gallery, Liver-pool, 40; Mr Alan Bond, yachisman nd businessman, 60; Mr Peter Bowring, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 75: Mr Colin Burgon MR, 50; Mr Glen Campbell, country singer, 60; Mlle Yvette Chauviré, ballerina assoluta, 81; Str John Chilcot. Permanent Under-Secretary, Northem Ireland Office, 59: Mr George Cole, actor, 73: Miss Carole Drinkwater, actress, 50; Mr Martin Drury, Director-General, National Trust, 60t Mr Alan Dukes, former leader of the Fine Gael party in freland, 53; Li-Gen Sit John Foley, 59; Mr Peter Frampton, rock musician, 48: Sir William Gage, High Court judge, 60; Mr Lloyd Honeyghan, box-er, 38: Mr Robin Hutton, merchant banker, 65: Mr Ronald Hynd, choreographer, 67; Mr Robert Key MP, 53; Mr Archy Kirkwood MP, 52; Mr Nico adenis, restaurateur, 64; Mr John

Maples MP, 55: Dr Geotfrey Mar-

shall, Provost, the Queen's College.

Oxford, 69: Lord Menuhin, violinist

Earl of Oxford and Asquith, former Governor of the Seychelles, 82; Miss Margaret Pereira, former Controller, Home Office Forensic Science Service, 70; Sir David Ratford, former ambaseidor to Norway, 64: Mr RJ, Ritchie, former tennis player, 88: Professor Sir Eric Scowen, physician, 38: Mr Charles Sisson, writer and poet, 84; Mr David Summerscale, Headmaster, Westminster School, 61: Sir Robert Wade-Gery, vicechairman, Barclays Capital, 69.

Anniversaries Births: Henry Fielding, novelist, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, 1724: Madame de Staef (Anne-Louise-Germain Necker, Baronne de Stael-Holsteint, writer, 1766; Lenin (Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov), Communist leader, 1870; Sergei Sergeyevich Prikofiev, composer, 1891; Julius Robert Oppenheimer, physicist, 1908; Deaths: John Tradescant, gar-dener, 1662; Richard Millious Nixon, 37th US president, 1994. On this day: the Royal Society was incorporated. 1962; the New York World's Fai opened, 1964. Today is the Feast Day of St Agipatus I, pope, Saints Epipodius and Alexander. St Leonides of Alexandria, St Oppor-tuna and St Theodore of Sykeon.

Changing of the Guard

LAW REPORT: 22 APRIL 1998

Extended contract is for one fixed term

British Broadcasting Corporation v Kelly-Phillips; Court of Appeal (Lord justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Thorpe) 8 April 1998

A FIXED-TERM contract of employment which had been extended by agreement was to be regarded as one fixed-term contract for the extended term.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the BBC against a finding of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on a preliminary issue that the respondent, Linda Kelly-Phillips, could pursue a complaint against it of unfair dismissal.

The respondent, having previously been emptoyed by the BBC on a fixed-term contract, was offered a new fixedterm contract of employment from 4 September 1994 to 5 September 1995. The agreement contained a waiver berand was not being renewed.

clause in the following terms: In so far as it is permitted by current employment legislation, nonrent employment legislation, nor-renewal or non-extension of this en-gagement when its term expires shall not constitute grounds either for a claim of unfair dismissal or for any redundancy payment.

Part X of the Employment Rights Act 1996 gave an emplayee the right not to be unfairly dismissed. However, section 197(1) allowed an employer and employee to contract out of the application of Part X where there was a dismissal from employment under a contract for a fixed term of one year or more, if the dismissal consisted only of of the expiry of that term

without its being renewed. The contract was later extended to 31 December 1995. On 22 December 1995 the BBC wrote to respondent, telling her that her contract would come to an end on 31 Decemdustrial Tribunal. The BBC relied on the fact that she had contracted out of making such a claim. The Industrial Tribunal held, inter alia, that at the date of her dismissal the respondent had been engaged on a fixedterm contract for a little less than four months. Section 197(1) did not, therefore, apply and her complaint of unfair

of unfair dismissal to an In-

upheld that decision, and the BBC appealed. Patrick Elias QC and John Bowers (So-Scient BBC Litigation Department) for the BBC; John Hendy QC and Jennifer Eady (Therapsons) for the respondent.

dismissal could proceed. The

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that the question was whether the contract governing the employment from which

the respondent had been dis-

which the original fixed term had been extended, the term of which was the extension only.

It had been argued for the respondent that to regard the contract and the agreed extension as one fixed-term contract for the purposes of section 197(1) distorted the natural meaning of the section. Section 197 could not, however, be construed on its own. In particular, section 95(1)(b) was of crucial importance, because it recognised that there could be an extension of a fixed term of a contract

"under the same contract". Since, under section 95(1)(b). there could be an extension of the term without there being a new contract, the term thereafter must be the extended term. Importing that into section 197(1), it would follow that

The respondent complained missed was the varied con- the reference to a contract for tract for the extended fixed a fixed term did encompass a term, or the agreement by contract which had been varied by an extension of the term under the same contract.

There was no compelling reason in the authorities to depart from that view of the construction of section 197(1), which received support form the observations of the majority of the Court of Appeal in BBC v Ioannou [1975] QB 781, from Mulrine v University of Ulster [1993] IRLR 545, and from Bhatt v Chelsea and Westminster Health Care Trust [1997] IRLR 660. Whilst recognising that there

might be potential for the abuse of the exemption in section 197(1) by fixed-term contracts being extended repeatedly, that did not justify giving the statutory wording a gloss which otherwise it could not bear.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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and dro

GEC pays £800m for US defence firm

By Michael Harrison

GEC yesterday unveiled its first big takeover deal since Lord Simpson Took charge of the group 16 months ago by agreeing to pay £800m for an American defence electronics group.

The acquisition of Tracor, one of the leading contractors to the Pentagon, will turn GEC into the south-biggest US defence electronics company with sales of \$1.3bn and 25,000 employees.

Announcing the surprise deal yesterday, Lord Simpson made it clear that GEC's US

ambitions did not end with Tracor and that it remained interested in other American defence contractors, including parts of Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

John Mayo, GEC's finance director, told analysis in London: This adds lustre to our cluster and further enhances the attractiveness of GEC to other potential partners."

The US deal follows the agreement last month between GEC-Marconi and Finmeccanica of Italy to merge their respective defence electronics businesses. Lord Simpson rejected suggestions that the transatiantic tie-up might damage GEC's prospects of taking part in a wider consol-

idation of the European defence industry. "It may actually accelerate the process rather than retard it," he told analysts.

GEC has been targeting the US for a strategic defence strike for over a year but the choice of Tracor came as a surprise. The group, which has sales of \$1.3bn and made operating profits last year of \$102m, specialises in information systems, electronic warfare and naval military systems. It was recently selected to provide mission software for the US Department of Defense's bomber tanker and cruise missile force, last

seen in action in the war with Iraq. Lord Simpson said the acquisition to raise a further £15n when it floats 25 per

would prove a perfect fit with GEC's own Marconi division since there were few areas where the two businesses merlapped.

He also said he was confident of gaining approval from US anti-trust and defence authorities, even though Tracor is involved in a large number of top-secret black" Pentagon programmes and has 1,700 security-cleared staff.

The deal will be financed from cash and credit facilities. In February, GEC raised £3.9bn through a revolving credit facility, the first to be denominated in curns. It also has £1.2bn of net cash in the group and expects cent of its stake in GEC-Alsthom, the power and transportation joint venture, this June.

Mr Mayo told analysis that GEC excepted to earn a 15 per cent return after tax on Tracor and grow its revenues by 10 to 15 per cent a year. GEC also expects to genorate \$35m of cost savings in its first full year of ownership by incorporating Traco into its existing US defence electronics operations.

He added that the deal had elevated GEC into the first transatlantic defence electronies group. Discussions between the two groups had been going on for several months but there had been no leaks.

Analysis had suggested the two US de-

fence businesses GEC was eyelog up were Litton Industries and ITT Industries. valued at \$2.8bn and \$4bn respectively. But rising US stock markets have made both expensive takeover propositions. In addition. Litton has an extensive warship building business while ITT has a big automotive division, which GEC is not inter-

nimal

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GEC is paying \$40 a share for Tracor and has the unanimous backing of the company's board. Including assumption of debt the total purchase price is \$1.4hn. GEC expecis to complete the deal with all neces-

sary regulatory approvals by June.

What Shell said about itself, and why it is pulling out of an international lobbying group



We looked in the mirror and we didn't like what we saw'

By Michael Harrison

ROYAL DUTCH SHELL bas pulled out of a powerful industry group lobbying against tougher environmental controls in what signals a growing split between European and US energy companies over their approach to climate change...

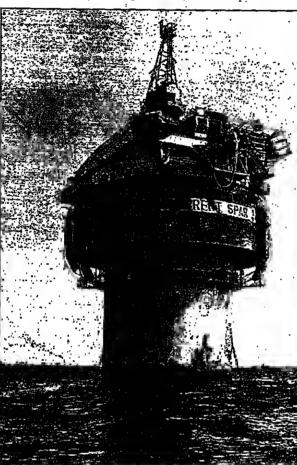
Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of the group's UK arm Shell-Transport and Trading, disclosed yesterday that it had withdrawn from the Global Climate Coalition last week after concluding that its differences with the group were "irreconcilable".

The Washington-based GCC represents 230,000 firms and is dominated by the likes of the US oil giant Exxon, the car makers General Motors and Ford and hig American power producers and energy intensive industries.

The organisation opposes the agreement reached at the Kyoto global summit last December for a 5 per centreduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2012.

BP left the group last year after allowing its \$5,000 annual membership to lapse. Now Shell has followed suit after being repeatedly attacked in Europe for its continued with the GCC before Kyoto. After the summit it campaigned against ratification and mandatory emission targets, neither of which we are against."

He was speaking as Shell launched a major initiative to



The case against: The company suffered badly from the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the row over Brent Spar, left

membership, Mr Moody-Stuart vironmental issues, giving them annually against nine core gensaid: "We had our differences as much importance as its fi-eral business principles such as nancial performance.

> The groundbreaking initiative makes Shell unique among oil majors and marks one of the most important strategic shifts in the company's history. Under the initiative Shell

raise its profile on social and en-

support for human rights, sustainable development, business honesty and environmental care.

In its first report, "Profits and Principles - does there have to be a choice?", Shell discloses that 23 staff were caught and will report on its performance sacked last year for soliciting or

accepting bribes, while 95 conthe contractors did not meet the requirements of the group's business principles.

The initiative is the product of oearly three years' work and follows the public mauling Shell received over the execution of dissident Ken Saro-Wiwa by

the Nigerian authorities and the tracts were cancelled because row over the disposal of the Brent Spar oil platform.

> Shell describes it, towards a busioess that would be more open and socially accountable involved sounding out 7,500 members of the public, 1,300 opinioo leaders and 600 staff.

The "transformation", as

The results of the mass con sultation were that 50 per cent of views about Shell were either neutral or unfavourable with 10 per cent of people regarding the | By Nigel Cope company as uncaring about the environment and human rights. We had looked in the mirror

and neither recognised nor liked some of what we saw," the documeor admits. A key element of the strategy will be external, indepen-

dent verification of Shell's performance on the environment and social issues, although Mr Moody-Stuart conceded this would be tremendously difficult to measure in the same way as financial performance. John Elkington, chairman of

Sustain Ahility, the respected consultancy, has been drafted in to belp Shell devise a "triple bottom line" whereby its annual accounts will reflect its economic. environmental and social per-

The wider community will ment are being issued, each containing a selection of reply cards inviting the public to give Shell their views on different issues such as the circumstances under which it would refuse to

do business in a given country. Mr Moody Stuart said Nigeria remained an extremely corrupt country" which accounted for a large number of last year's hribery cases. Even so. Shell could still operate in

Argos bid battle still wide open

City Conrespondent

THE £1.9bn bid battle for Argos, the catalogue retailer, reached a new level of intensity vesterday when two leading shareholders declared their intention to back the Argos management against home shopping group Great Universal Stores.

Baillie Gifford, which holds a 6,6 per cent stake in Argos, said it intends to reject the GUS offer. The Scottish fund management group said the 650p offer was "inadequate and fails to fully reflect the strengths and potential of Argos under its new management team."

Its display of support follows a similar move by Prudential also be invited to take part. which speaks for nearly 7 per Some 60,000 copies of the cent of Argos. The fund man-*Profits and Principles" docu- | ager confirmed earlier reports that it too intends to support Argos.

It is understood that Prudential feels the GUS hid is opportunistic and fails to reflect the longer term recovery potential of the company. Fund managers there have been impressed by new Argos chief executive Stuart Rose and are

prepared to give him a chance. However, GUS too has won early promises of support Nigeria and Russia without) ahead of the bid's close on Fribreaching its ethical standards. | day. Gartmore, which holds a Outlook, page 21 | 3.3 per cent stake in Argos, said

is intends to vote in favour of the GUS offer.

Mercury Asset Management, which holds a 6 per cent stake, is also expected to accept the GUS cash. So is Standard Life, which owns around 2 per

This leaves the bid wide open, with the 15 per cent stake held by Schroders Investment Management likely to be the deciding vote.

"It is certainly going to be close but it is still 55-45 in GUS's favour," said Nick Bubh, an analyst at SG Secu-

NatWest Securities also feels GUS is still in the driving seat. In a research note entitled "Going, going, gone?" it recommends clients accept GUS's final offer, saying it exceeds the value of an independent Argos.

However, one shareholder said yesterday: "We have always respected what Argos has achieved. In its time it has been an incredibly well-run business. True, it has slipped a hit in the last couple of years but we have seen Stuart Rose and we believe that a good retailer could make it work again."

Other institutional shareholders which have yet to make up their minds include Legal & General and Norwich Union.

Argos shares closed 20p lower as 610p, reflecting the possibility of the bid failing. GUS shares closed down 7p at

Pound drops below DM3

Economics Editor . . .

THE POUND fell to a six-week: low yesterday as City fears of a further rise in interest rates ebbed, even though inflation stayed a fraccion above the Government's target last month.

Figures due today on un-. employment and average earnings, tomorrow on retail sales and Friday oo first-quarter growth, could yet set back these hopes. Some analysis: still reckon the hawks on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will win the argument in favour of a rise in the cost of borrowing next month.

However, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of Eng-

land, said the critical judgement facing the MPC was how far and how fast growth in demand would moderate. There were "some encouraging signs", he added in a speech last night.

The pound fell nearly 2 pfennigs to end just below 3.00 German marks yesterday, its first foray below the psychological watershed since mid-March. Surging German money supply growth boosted the mark generally, but the sterling index against a range of currencies declined by 0.7 to 106.3.

The pound has shed 6 pfennigs in the past four days, and some traders predicted it could soon return to the DM2.95 level if the other economic statistics due this week favour the interest-rate doves.

Yesterday's figures showed

the headline rate of inflation rising to 3.5 per cent last month from 3.4 per ceot in Fehruary. The target measure, excluding mortgage interest payments, was unchanged at 2.6 per ceot.

Economists warned that the inflation figures for the pext few months would be much less favourable. April has brought higher road-fuel duties, an 8.5 per cent average rise in council tax, higher water hills, increased prescription charges and a reduction in Miras.

Together, these could take headline inflation towards 4 per cent and the underlying rate close to 3 per cent. The latter has hit its 2.5 per cent target in just three months - April and May 1997 and January 1998 during the past three years. In its latest published minutes, the MPC indicated that developments in the jobs market would be decisive. Ecocomists will therefore be looking for a clear signal one way or the other from this morning's figures for unemployment and

But this will not be straightforward. The Office for National Statistics will present an improved definition of unemployment for February alongside the discredited claimant count measure for March.

The move will add up to 500,000 to the jobless total, with the new figure based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) of 60,000 households. The claimant count fell to 1.38 million io February, whereas the LFS for last autumn was 1.85 million.

rivals but faces a tough year an effect on supermarkers."

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

TESCO confirmed its position as the UK's number one supermarket group yesterday with an 11 per cent increase in profits to £832m and a significant increase in market share.

However, Tesco warned that the current year will be "challeoging" as consumer expenditure is reined in by higher interest rates and struggling rivals such as Safeway attempt to win back sales with price

"It might be a hit tongher this year." said Terry Leahy, Tesco's chief executive. "A slowdown in consumer expenditure will affect other sectors Outlook, page 21 I more than ours but it will have

Mr Leahy would not he drawn on Tesco's likely re-

Tesco moves further ahead of

sponse to price promotions by rivals such as Safeway, which last week added new features to its lovalty card. He also admitted that the recent merger between Somerfield and Kwik Save might lead to additional price promotions but said he did not expect a price war.

Tesco is continuing to pull ahead of its supermarket rivals in the UK. Its market share rose from 14.6 per cent to 15.2 per cent last year. Like-for-like sales in current trading are 5 per cent ahead of the same period last year, well ahead of the industry average.

Tesco continues to domioate the industry even though the degree by which it is outperforming its rivals is reducing," said Paul Smiddy of Credit Lyonnais Securities.

Tesco plans to expand its non-food sales by double the rate of its food lines. It has already achieved success in health and beauty products and music and entertainment products.

It is continuing to target selective distribution by gaining supplies of products by top brand names such as Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger on the grey market and selling them at our prices.

Tesco's profits rose 11 per cent to £832m before £95m of exceptional charges for reorganisation of the Ireland business. Turnover was 19 per cent ahead to £17.8bn and the dividend was increased by 12 per cent to 11.6p. Investment column, page 20

TOURIST RATES

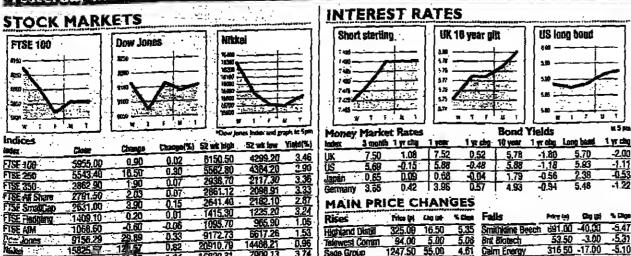
Game set for £100m flotation

By Nigel Cope

GAME, the computer games retailer, is expected to announce plans for a stock market listing. later this week that will value the business at more than £100m. Game, which is based in Surrey. bas around 70 stores which sell CD-Roms for personal computers as well as software for video games.

The float is likely to attract attention due to the phonomenal performance of Electropic Boutique, which announced a humper set of results earlier this month. Game has been enjoying similar growth, analysts say. The company recorded profits of £700,000 last year on sales of £52m. Brokers to the new issue are Credit Lyonnais Laing.

Yesterday in the markets



CURRENCIES OTHER INDICATORS

Austria (schillings) 60.37 Belgium (francs) 2.3354 Canada (S) 0 8512 Cyprus (pounds) 11 22 Denmark (kronë 8 9389 Finland (markka) France (francs) 9 7884 2.9<u>333</u> Germany (marks) 504 93 12 6) Hong Kong (S) ileiand (puntsi 1,1560 <u>61 20</u> Indian (Lupées) israel (shekels) <u>5,7640</u> haly thraj 2901 218 5<u>5</u> Japan (yen)



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Tesco firing on all cylinders

IT IS hard to fault Tesco's latest set of results. Its like-forlike sales increase of 5 per cent in current trading is comfortality ahead of the industry average (about 3 per cent) and the increase in its market share from 14.6 to 15.2 per cent is impressive. Tesco has established itself as the benchmark in the supermarket sector and a clear leader over its arch-rival Sainsbury's. The share price tells the story. Tesco shares have trehled in five years, during which they have out-performed the market by 30 per cent.

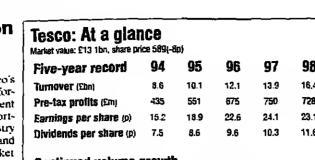
The only problem for investors is that most of this is already in the share price, which edged down 8p to 589p yesterday as the group made noises about a more challenging consumer environment and an increase in competitive pressure from rivals.

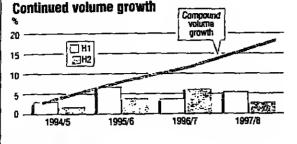
Even so Tesco still appears to be firing on all cylinders. In the UK, its different sized formats ranging from Tesco Metro to the huge Tesco Extra hypermarkets are helping to maximise growth opportunities. The laggard in the pack has been Tesco Express, the small petrol forecourt format which has proved popular with customers hut continued to lose money.

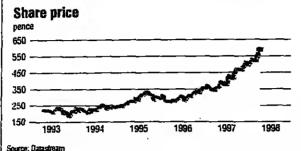
The strength of the UK operation has enabled management to explore opportunities overseas. Ireland appears to be going well with Northern Ireland turning sales declines into 20 per cent increases while the stores south of the border are showing 10 per cent gains. Central Europe appears to be taking longer with losses expected to rise to £13m this year.

With the Catteau business in France sold for £250m last year. Tesco is looking for new routes for expansion and the Far East could be next.

Back home the plan to increase sales of non-food ranges by twice the rate of food sales growth looks achievable. These lines, such as health and beauty and entertainment. already account for 10 per cent of Tesco's sales.







yesterday as the group an-

ter figures.

to £457m.

nounced indifferent first quar-

questions than they answered

about the group's future and

suggested an independent

gain its premium rating. Pre-

tax profits rose 8 per cent to

of the strong pound earnings

would have risen 12 per cent

the bottom end of analysts'

forecasts, SmithKline also ad-

mitted that it would only show

low double-figure earnings

growth this year. While that is

not to be sniffed at it looks

pedestrian compared to the

top tier of drugs groups in the

an extensive production line of

Eli Lilly and Merck.

But the figures came in at

These figures raised more

The coming year will be 845p in February to close tougher as struggling rivals such as Safeway and the newly merged Somerfield-Tesco use price weapons to improve sales.

On forecasts of £890m the shares, down yesterday, trade on a forward rating of 22. That is too high to start huying but the shares remain a solid hold.

Doubts over **SmithKline**

JAN LESCHLY, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, claimed all was well at the drugs giant yesterday. Who needs a merger with Glaxo Wellcome when our own drugs pipeline will keep producing the goods, he argues,

But the failed merger talks with first AHP, the American drugs group, then Glaxo, cannot be swept under the carpet so easily. For a start shareholders are becoming increasingly uneasy at the fall in SmithKline's share price since new drugs. But most of these talks collapsed. The shares

ing it is difficult to assess the quality of its pipeline. Smith-Kline may also find it difficult to fund the heavy expenditure required to push these treatments threuch clinical trials.

One v of doing that would be to look for new merger partners and further consolidation in the pharmaccutical sector is likely. But Smith Kline, sitting on a prospective p/e ratio of 30, is not cheap and now would be a good time to take some profits.

St Ives needs more windfalls

SMALL investors in the Nationwide are not alone in hoping for a windfall this summer. St Ives the printing group which produced the tens of millions of circulars for the Halifax and Norwich Union demutualisations and the demergers at Hanson and British Gas, is also hoping for an upturn in activity.

The reduced volume of paper passing through the husiness was mainly responsible for a modest drop in turnover in the half year to the end of January.

down another 40p to 691p Margins were less affected. and profits actually rose by 2.6 per cent to £24.2m. But the impact of the strong pound on overseas earnings, especially from Dutch and German operations, cost just over SmithKline may struggle to re-£400,000, and increased funding for the group pension schemes as a result of the Budget last July cost £900,000. £440m. Excluding the impact

Increased sales of paperhacks compensated for a further decline in demand for hardback books, hut direct response advertising grew only modestly in the UK and delays in getting new capacity into operation affected sales in Germany and the US. Sales in the UK were also disrupted by the changing size of magazines and new technology.

sort of growth achieved by the Analysts downgraded their forecasts by a £1m to £52m. The shares, which fell 13.5p to US such as Warner Lambert, SmithKline certainly has 516.5p are trading on 15 times forecast current year earnings. After a strong run from will not hit the market for the a low of 365p last summer the have slumped from a peak of next few years at least, mak-shares now look high enough.

Rank shares slump as figures dismay City

RANK, the Butlin's to Odeon cinema leisure group, disappointed the City yesterday by unveiling a fall in first quarter profits. Its shares slumped 19.5p to 385p as analysts feared the poor figures could stall the recovery the group has shown over the last few months.

Rank's trading statement will also increase the pressure on Andrew Teare, its embattled chief executive, who has been in the firing line from shareholders for his performance since taking control of the

Bookings at the traditional British holiday destinations of Butlin's and Haven have lagged behind last year. The terrible weather has prompted tourists to go abroad and Butlin's bookings have been disrupted by a huge revamp of the holiday camps which will cost Rank £139m. Sales of Hard Rock merchandise such as T-shirts and baseball hats have also continued to fall, offsetting a rise in hurger sales at the cafe chain.

City analysts were dismayed that operating profits rose by just £1m to £21m in the first three months of the year. One analyst said yesterday: "These Redcoat blues: Butlin's bookings were hit by a revamp of the camps Photograph: Andrew Busiman The growth is low, considering being built in Florida in conjunction with Universal Studios: When the scheme is finished Rank will be forced to pass interest on development costs

thing like this always seems to comes out of the woodwork." They also pointed out yesterday that Rank's profits will be dented by £20m next year after it completes Islands of Ad-

figures are very disappointing. venture, a new \$2bn theme park 'at the group's Odcon chain plication operation also had a good three months, with major releases such as Lost in Space, Man in the Iron Mask and Primary Colours helping sales. through the profit and loss

account Rank's figures would have been even worse if it were not for Titanic, the blockbuster movie that has taken British cinemas by storm. The success of the film helped admissions

jump by 34 per cent. Its film du-

Rank claimed that the hulk of the fall in pre-tax profits was due to the absence of a £9m dividend from Xerox. The group disposed of its photocopy business it disposed of 20 per cent stake in Xerox last year.

BBA shares soar on US buy

By Terry Macalister

BBA chief executive Roberto Quarto's plans to transform the former conglomerate into a focused engineering group took another step forward yesterday with the £174m purchase of USbased Veratec, a manufacturer of non-woven materials,

The deal cements BBA's position as a world leader in polymers-hased materials, which are used in everything from road building to surgical masks. BBA shares shot up 18.5p to 443p.

Mr Quarto said the deal, to he funded out of existing re-

sources, would be earnings enhancing in the first full year of operation before any restructuring costs. He added that said he was confident of receiving regulatory approval for the deal by the end of June.

how much the group has spent

over the last few years and Hard

Rock is still going nowhere."

is a bit of a banana skin. It has

so many businesses that some-

Another analyst said: "Rank

"Veratec is not only complementary to our existing activities, but also adds new technology, process and geographical spread in areas such as speciality packaged products and industrial," he said

Veratec, owned by International Paper Co and with operating profits of \$24.8m on turnover of \$249m, has significant operations in Canada and Mexico where BBA is not active.

The acquisition will also. give BBA access to new sales offices in Hong Kong and Japan. Mr Quarto has made clear his interest in increasing business in China.

Will Mackie, analyst with

Crédit Lyonnais Laing, said Veratec was an "excellent acquisition". He expects BBA profits to rise from £156m last year to £171m in 1998.

restructuring which saw it purchase eight companies worth £300m last year but simultaneously dispose of £184m. worth of assets.

After the Veratec deal it still has a war chest of over £200m.

which is likely to be spent on acquisitions in emerging markets.

Under the leadership of Mr Quarto, who took over four years ago, BBA has been gradnally concentrating on three legs: materials technology, aviation services and friction materials, particularly hrake pads for the car industry.

Since Mr Quarto joined. BBA is in the middle of a big . BBA's non-woven division has grown from a £100m turnover to £400m. With the Veratec acquisition the figure will rise to £550m. Over the same period the BBA share price has risen from a low of 158p to last night's close of 443p.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



JAPANESE tourists may be thin on the ground in London this year due to the Asian financial crisis, but plenty of their countrymen turned up at Finsbury Pavement in the City yesterday for the Yamaichi International auction.

The Yamaichi securities house went helly up late last year, and the contents of the London office were put under the hammer in a three-day auction starting

Paintings, dealing desks, hat and coat stands, golf clubs - everything had to go.

Over 600 people, many from the City, attended the first day of sales yesterday supervised by auctioncers Henry Butcher. John Judson of Henry Butcher said: "Everything's going very well. We had very good prices, especially for the pictures, which went for up to £15.000."

"We're not fine art people, we're industrial [auctioneers] - hut an oil painting is a chattel like any other," Mr Judson

As well as the Japanese, whom Mr Judson presumed were buying a few sentimental mementos to take home, were a host of hard-nosed fine-art dealers. "We had four phone lines going for the pictures," Mr Judson said. A world record price of £6,500 was paid fot one dauhing, by Janus La Cour, he added.

Then there were the contents of the four flats run by Yamaichi across London. where drinks cabinets and Davidhoff eigar boxes seemed to be the order of the

Today will be rather more prosaic, added Mr Judson, with computers and photocopiers up for grabs.

Christine Farnish is a woman with a mission. Well, two, in fact. The first is to find a flat in London's Docklands, the location of her new joh as director of Consumer Relations with the fledgling Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The second is to harmonise the eight financial ombudsman schemes that already exist, such as PIA Omhudsman, in order that the FSA can offer a "one stop shop for consumers".

Currently Ms Farnish is acting deputy director general of Oftel, the telecoms regulatot. She has been there for the last four-and-a-half years, and Oftel's recently appointed director general, David Edmunds, is busy recruiting a successor. "I heard about this new joh on his first

day," Ms Farnish recalls. So will she he happy swapping Oftel's Ludgate Hill offices in the heart of London for the windy towers of Canary Wharf? "Yes, no problem," she gamely replies, before admitting that commuting in from her current home in Cambridge will be impossible. Unravelling the pensions miss-selling scandal should be a doddle in comparison.

I'M PLEASED to see that Robin Spencer has made it hack in one piece after his Sahara marathon. The insolvency lawyer

from Lovell White Durrant came 234th out of a field of nearly 400 in the 229-kilometre race which finished this month.

"When I got back to the UK I had to go straight to casualty to have my blisters dressed." says Mr Spencer. "It was agony. But crossing the finishing line was the happiest moment of my life."

Rohin raised £28,000 for the Variety Cluh Children's Hospital at King's College Hospital London. A year ago he was a 38-year-old couch potato of 13.5 stone. Having run an average of 20 miles a day over seven days in southern Morocco he is now a svelte 10.5 stone. Robin humped into some other City

types doing the marathon: Jonathan Miles from Merrill Lynch, John Guthrie from J Rothschild Assurance in Mayfair. and two Lloyd's brokers from Stirling Besso, Roddy Caxton-Spencer and Chris

Now it's back to dull grey reality, or in Robin's case the continuing liquidation of the Sovereign Marine & General Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Willis Carroon. Sovereign went under last July.

Rohin says things are relatively quiet on the insolvency front in the UK. "Its a cyclical business, so I picked an opportune time to go running in the Sabara. But everyone's expecting a downturn in the economy in a year's time," he adds, with relish,

CLEAR your diaries. The National Federation of Suppostmasters declares that "hundreds of subpostmasters from across the UK will converge on Bournemouth next month for their annual conference."

The NFS continues: "Hot issues will include Royal Mail undermining the work of post offices by selling stamps direct to retailers; demands for the Government to stop using the Post Office as a giant piggy bank; and how the millennium bug will affect nearly 20,000 subpost offices."

I've booked my ticket already.

Record pensions mis-selling fine for Sun Life of Canada

By Andrew Verity

SUN LIFE of Canada group yesterday faced being labelled the worst culprit of all in the pension mis-selling review as regulators fined the society

£600,000 - a record. The Personal Investment Authority attacked the company for serious failings in reviewing and compensating nearly 30,000 customers who might be owed thousands of pounds each because of mis-selling.

The PIA found that Confederation Life, n SLOC subsidiary, had failed to review the cases of 30,000 customers who might be owed compensation. The PIA also charged an additional £125,000 in costs.

Confederation Life had farmed out the work of mailing and chasing investors to an external mailing house. But senior executives at SLOC did not

COMPANY RESULTS

EPS is pre-except

Ferraris Group (I)

Jackson Group (F)

James Philay (F)

St Ives (I)

Havelock Europa (F)

Turnover & Pre-tax &

bother to check that it was carrying out its work correctly.

The failings were uncovered hy a PIA visit in February last year. That was two years and four months after SLOC was first ordered to begin its review of mis-selling in October 1994. By that time, Sun Life of

Canada (UK), which is unrelated to the Bristol-based Sun Life, had still failed to trace 3,900 investors - many of whom could be owed around £8,000 each - for whom it had no current address.

"The failings were significantly affected by a weakness in project planning for carrying out the pensions review project at that time," the PIA said. SLOC has now admitted it

failed to take all reasonable steps to carry out the review. In common with other companies fined for mis-selling, it believed it should focus on cases most likely to be owed redress.

EPS

25.90m (19.94m) 0.728m (0.621m) 5.63p (4.27p) 2.31p (2.81p)

11.89m (10.27m) 0 713m (0.526m) 4.7p (3.9p) 1 4p (1.2p)

98.79m (81.57m) 3.01m (1.31m) 8.8p (3.9p) 3.2p (2.1p)

178.47m (189.21m)14.24m (12.03m) 10.4p (6.8p) 4.15p (3.65p)

76.18m (67.69m) 6.02m (5.9m) 14.8p (14.6p) 4.75p (4.3p)

35 68m (33.40m) 9.566m (1.14m) 2.8p (8.1p) ... 3,375p (3.0p)

179.65m (183 56m)24.17m (23.56m) 16.27p (15.84p) 3.75p (3.49p)

17.78bn (14.98bn) 728.0m (750.0m) 23.1p (24.1p) 11.6p (1.35p)

£1 m pay-off after shake-up TWO directors could leave Somerfield with more than £1m in

Kwik Save directors to share

compensation between them after a boardroom shake-up following the supermarket group's £1.3tm merger with Kwik Save. David 🌒 Coles, Somerfield's marketing director, and Derek Pretty, Kwik Save's finance director, are to leave the group. Both are on twoyear contracts, with Mr Coles earning £162,750 last year and Mr Pretty £183,000. They also hold substantial share options. David Simons, Somerfield's chief executive, will take "personal charge" of Kwik Save as it is integrated with the Somerfield business.

MEPC moves out of America

MEPC yesterday took a step towards leaving the US by announcing a £525m cash deal to sell eight shopping centres. The property group concluded it was not large enough to compete in the US retail property market. The sale of its other US assets, with a book value of around £300m, is imminent. MEPC shares rose 8p to 611p.

NatWest buy-backs approved

NATWEST's chairman told shareholders at the bank's annual meeting yesterday that, after a "poor" 1997, the group had made "a solid start" to 1998. Its chairman, Lord Alexander of Weedon, added that the bank was about to start "a rolling programme of share purchases", and shareholders voted to give NatWest the authority to buy back up to 100 million shares.

Halifax sees new lending up

HALIFAX said yesterday that new mortgage lending was picking up from a slow start to the year, and that remortgage activity had also increased in recent weeks. Speaking at the bank's general meeting, Jon Foulds, Halifax's chairman, urged Birmingham Midshires Building Society to disentangle itself from an exclusivity agreement with Royal Bank of Scotland, which agreed a £630m deal with Midshires last year. Halifax made a £780m counter-offer for Midshires last month.

Citicorp profits rise to \$1.1bn

CITICORP, the second largest US bank, said its first-quarter profits were up by 7 per cent to \$1.1bn. (£660m), just ahead of expectations. The bank - which is planning a \$150bn mega-merger with Travelers, the financial services giant - added that booming financial markets more than offset weaknesses in the Far East,



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OUTLOOK ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE EUROPEAN SINGLE CURRENCY. SHELL'S ATTEMPT TO AUDIT ITS SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE, AND A POSSIBLE TURNING

POINT FOR STERLING

Could the euro ever take on the dollar?

CAN THE euro hope to achieve a reserve currency status that rivals or even overtakes the dollar? Perhaps more important, does anyone care, other than powerhungry politicians? According to a new study of the issue, "Euro versus the dollar", by Richard Portes of the London Business School and Helene Rev of the LSE, we ought to, for quite apart from the geopolitical influence that the dollar's present hegemony confers on the US, there are real, tangible economic benefits in being a powerful reserve currency too.

With a degree of precision only economists seem capable of, the writers put this at 0.5 per cent of annual GDP for Europe. It should be stressed that this defines the economic benefit only of replacing the doilar as the main global currency for financial asset transactions. It does not quantify the euro's total economic impact, which is anyone's guess and presumably would be much larger.

This reserve currency benefit comes in three forms. First there is an obvious competitive advantage for the markets and institutions of the reserve currency's country. Second, there is an advantage for trade in having other countries peg their exchange rates to one's own. Third, there is the ability to finance balance of payments and budget deficits with liabilities denominated in the international money, which other countries will accept without limit.

It is this third advantage which seems to be the most potent, for it seems to offer the opportunity to be endebted to foreign countries either free of charge, because central bankers, businesses and individ-

nais feel obliged to hold large quantities of your currency as a reserve, or at least at favourable interest rates.

An estimated 60 per cent of the total stock of dollars is held by foreigners. The effect is to allow the US to obtain real resources (net imports) in return for issuing costless notes.

OK, so that's enough of the economics tutorial. There do indeed seem to be benefits beyond those of prestige and political clout in being a big reserve currency. But can the euro achieve it?

US commentators and politicians are almost universally sceptical, but they would be, wouldn't they, since they have so much to lose from it. The authors of this study adopt the contrary view, if only because of the size effect; the curo cone will eventually be larger, both in terms of number of people and GDP, than the US. However, the process will depend crucially on the development and integration of capital markets in Europe, for without a certain critical level of liquidity, foreigners will not want to hold euro denominated assets on

anything like the same scale as dollar ones. Optimists insist that the mere existence of the euro will drive the necessary degree of integration and the establishment of a properly benchmarked deht market. If this does indeed occur, and Britain is not soon a part of the single currency, then the City needs to watch out. It is unlikely in the extreme that Europe would tolerate a reserve currency run out of a place which wasn't a member, or indeed that the City could create such a demand for the euro. Paradoxically, then, the City's best hope of remaining

Europe's leading financial centre may lie in a world of depressingly shallow business the euro's failure as a world currence, its inability to look the dollar in the face.

Shell takes the high moral road

MARK Moody-Stuart has looked in the mirror and is perturbed at what he sees. This is not a reference to the Shell chairman's rather intimidating pair of bushy white eyebrows but the reaction his company engenders when held up to the mirror of public perception. A significant proportion of those asked immediately think of Ken Sam-Wiwa. the Brent Spar and marauding roughnecks and vote with their feet.

Now Shell has decided to do something about it and the result is the first annual audit of its financial, social and environmental performance. It will be updated annually and verified externally and, who knows, one day Mr Moody-Stuart's pay may depend as much on how well Shell treats caribou migrating across the freezn tundra as what he does for total sharebolder return.

It would be easy to be cynical about Shell's attempt to play the cards of ecological and social awareness and sustainable development - particularly when the concept of a sustainable oil company is a contradiction in terms. It would be fun to wondet how many rain forests will be chopped down to produce the 60,000 copies that Shell is sending out of "Profits and Principles does there have to be a choice?"

values. Shell's artempt to give equal weight to social and environmental values as well as the hottom line is refreshing and laudable. It also surely makes business sense as was made plain by the German boycott of Shell that followed Brent Spar.

The devil will, of course, be in the implementation. It is one thing to adopt the moral high ground, it is another to actually operate on it and then verify the resuits when auditors already find it difficult enough accounting for the latest financial instruments. Mr Moody-Stuart may fail but you cannot fault him for trying. You can be sure of Shell for that.

Pound could be on the way down

IS THE pound on its way down at last? Canny tourists might do worse than buy their holiday money immediately, figuring that even if the exchange rate against the currendies of Europe's sunspots does go hack up, it will not get much higher. The lost gain from a renewed rise is likely to pale in comparison with the potential loss from a fall in sterling between new and August.

More important than the pressing question of summer holiday finance is whether or not exporters can comfort themselves with the thought that the worst of their sin mg pound pain is over. At DM3.00 the exchange rate is still too high for many of them, but if the rest of this week's economic ligures contain no unpleasant sur-But that would be to miss the point. In prises, it might be heading for decisively

the only way forward, accord-

ing to Liffe sources. Instead,

Liffe could become a "hybrid"

organisation where the link

hetween shares and permits is

broken but the exchange con-

tinues to he run on a "not for

profit basis. "The problem is

determining an appropriate benefit for shareholders that is

not a dividend and is not a per-

pected to appounce whether it

has decided to develop its own

electronic trading system or huy

in a system from one of its com-

DTB's. The DTB's checky of-

fer to install its system at Liffe

for free has been firmly

rejected by Jack Wigglesworth.

voted to introduce a full-time

chairman and to cut down the

size of its board in an attempt

to focus management and

facilitate decision making.

Last week. Liffe's members

Liffe's chairman.

Liffe's board is also ex-

mit," one source said.

lower territory. Most exporters will be hoping the slide won't stop until it reaches round about the DM2.05 level.

Vauxhall workers will he sharing this hope, following their novelty pay deal which adds a half per cent increase il sterling stays below DM2.70 for two consecurive months. This is profit-related pay with a twist, linking the deal to the exchange rate related element of the company's earnings, and as such represents something of a first. Nor should such a dive in the exchange rate be completely discounted, If UK interest rates have not quite peaked yet, they soon will, while a rise in German rates looks closer as signs of economic recovery on the Continent blossom. Sterling is not a one-way bet in the market any longer.

On the other hand, it would be foolish to count on a big depreciation. As long as Britain stays outside the single currency. investors will be attracted to sterling by its higher yields and risk diversification.

Besides, perhaps this is a real turning point. Future historians may look back and say the late 1990s saw the UK's transition to a low-inflation, stable growth economy. If so, the pound is at present less overvalued than some businesses have claimed, and sterling is on the verge of becoming a permanently strong currency, rather than one prone to frequent devaluation because of Britain's higher relative inflation. Those Vaughall employees should not regard their extra half per cent as money in the bank just yet. And as for when to buy our holiday money, we may not have to worry too much in future about when we buy it.

By Terry Macalister

HOME Counties Newspapers, publisher of the Hampstead and Highgate Gazette, yesterday dashed the hopes of two rival suitors by accepting a £58m bid from Eastern Counties Newspapers, the privately owned

Southnews, the acquisitive media group, tabled a £60m offer on Monday while Johnston Press had previously seen its. £52m hid lapse after it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). Bill Coppern Gardner,

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tive, said the Eastern bid had received irrevocable acceptances from 60 per cent of the shareholders and was attractive because it "removed all uncertainties". The offer will need 90 per cent acceptances to go Norwich-based Eastern

Counties, owned by the former mustard-making Coleman family and publishers of the East Anglian Daily Times, said it believed Home Counties was a perfect fit. Peter Strong, the chief ex-

ecutive of Eastern, said: "We already have significant trading decent price".

It's Time for 300MHz &

ties with Home Counties and print the Hampstead & Higheate Gazette, But the deal allows us to extend our East Anglian footprint south and west."

Both Eastern and Home Counties are confident that the lack of overlap between their activities means there is little likelihood of an MMC referral. The City welcomed the

agreed bid, marking up the Home Counties share price 7.5p to 560p. Anthony De Larrinaga, media analyst with Panmure Gordon said Home Counties had received "a

Home Counties accepts Liffe's board meets to 1 US by £58m bid from Eastern | consider its options

By Lea Paterson

THE BOARD of Liffe, London's troubled financial futures and options exchange, was last night thrasbing out details of radical proposals for structural change which will be made public later today.

The key recommendation is

expected to be that Liffe severs ties between ownership of the exchange and permits allowing traders to trade - which could mean full demutualisation and possibly flotation. Many at Liffe believe reform of the

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ownership structure is vital if the exchange is to respond to competition, particularly from the Deutsche Terminhorse (DTB), Liffe's Frankfurt-based arch-rival.

Liffe's board is also likely to provide details of the electronic trading system it plans to introduce next year. Liffe's 215-strong member-

ship will vote on the board's proposals at an extraordinary meeting on 21 May. At the mament. Liffe is a

mutual organisation owned by its members. Members receive one trading permit for each share in Liffe and nonthe exchange. Key to the success of any electronic trading system is the

ability to attract large numbers of traders. Liffe insiders believe this cannot be achieved unless the "one share - one permit" system is abolished. One sounce explained: "In

the future, you will have our larger members wanting to install terminals for, say, 100 of their traders. Linder the current system, this would only be possible if that member bought 100 shares. What you need to do is to break the link hetween shareholding and the trading

Although there is understood to be a broad consensus at Liffe that the "one share one permit" system should be ended, there is rather less agreement about what should replace it.

One source said: "One option would be to give shareholders a dividend rather than a permit ... and to run the ex-

This option - full demutualisation - would inevitably lead to flotation, according to some sector watchers, although it is thought unlikely the board will recommend flotation today. Full demutualisation could

also help end the infighting that has hindered effective decision making at Liffe.

Full demutualisation is not

Life insurers suffer from strong pound

By Andrew Verity

TWO of Britain's biggest life assurance companies yesterday revealed they had been hit hard in the first quarter of 1948 by tough trading conditions and the strength of the pound.

Prudential reported worldwide sales of regular premium products slipped to £124m hetween January and March from £128m in the same period last year, the first fall in over three years. Its US subsidiary, Jackson National Life, saw sales drop to \$313m (£186m) from \$350m in the first quarter of 1997. Prudential suffered a haem-

One system it will not be in- orthaging of its sales force. ch dropped in the year to March from 5.300 to 4.350. The Pru imposed a recruitment freeze last summer after regulators uncovered serious failings in its efforts to compensate victims of pension mis-selling.

Norwich Union's new business jumped by 14 per cent to £88m. But analysts said growth was 8 per cent lower than it would have been but for sterling.

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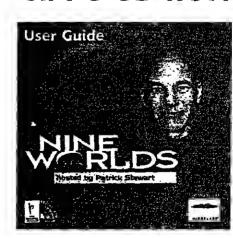
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Rolls-Royce woos US investors as ceiling is lifted

MARKET REPORT



court American investors next month as the restriction on

ment lifted the overseas ceiling on Rolls and British Aerospace shares from 29.5 per cent to 49.5 per cent. The move followed lobbying by Rolls and

to a lesser extent by BAe. Next month, when Rolls shareholders are due to approve the change, the aeroengine group plans a three-day US investment roadshow. It regularly meets its US sup- to 2.631. porters in May. But this year's get-togethers will have more significance than in the past. Previous presentations have often had little impact. Foreign investors were invariably too close, even over, the ceiling.

Now, however, there will be reading, jumped 34.5p to 922p. considerable headroom and

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero- having an encouraging tale to group, enjoyed another heady ered leisure group Rank 19.5p engine group, is planning to tell - first-quarter trading is flight, gaining 16.5p to 325p; to 385p, and drugs giant thought to have been good considerable transatlantic deforeign ownership of its shares mand could be generated.

Rolls shares were firm at Last month the Govern- 266.5p. This year they have moved between 189.5p and

> The rest of the stock market had a rather erratic session with Footsie swinging from a 69.3 points fall to a 21.9 gain and ending little changed at 5,955, up just 0.9. Supporting indices were more robust. The mid cap gained 16.5 to 5.543.4 and the small cap 3.9

With higher interest rate fears still lurking, the tone was generally subdued. Ladbroke. on revived talk of a closer alliance with Hilton Hotels Corporation, cantered 12.75p ahead to 340.75p and British which reduced their ability to buy the shares

Petroleum, largely on a technical position following a mis-

Highland Distilleries, the

the shares were 261p last month. Interim figures, earlier this month, showed profits

up a mere 1 per cent to £25m. The group has close links with the unquoted Robertson

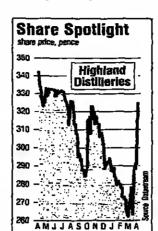
& Baxter whisky company and he French Remy Cointreau .inks group. A hostile bid could not succeed but there are suggestions that Highland is planning to strengthen its position following the creation of the Diageo colossus. There is also talk it may buy some unwanted bits and pieces of Diageo.

Lynx, the computer group hardened to 199.5p following an investment dinner at London's Howard Hotel, hosted by Henderson Crosthwaite, Electrical group Bowthorpe was little changed at 476p; it is due to host an analysts' visit to the US next week. IMI, the engineer, rose 13p to 442.5p following an an-

alysts' visit to the US. Disappointing figures lowSmithKline Beecham 40p to

Reuters, the information group, was another suffering from cautious trading comments, down 33p to 638p. Vague hid talk gave EMI an-

other spin, up 10p to 500p. Cadbury Schweppes softened 9p to 851p on worries



about disappointing US soft 13p to 45.5p after disclosing drink sales.

Utilities had a generally firm session, largely reflecting their defensive qualities. Thames Water rose 27p to 987p and Viridian, the old Northern Ireland Electricity, 5.5p to 561.5p.

TI, the engineer, rose 18.5p to 542.5p after CSFB said the shares were worth 600p and Merrill Lynch, with a 500p target, lifted Cable & Wireless Communications 2.5p to 409p.

Cairn Energy and Tullow Oil weakened on worries that the results of the Bangladesh licensing round will be further delayed - perhaps until midsummer. Details of the deals had first been expected in January, Cairn fell 17p to 316.5p and Tullow 2p to 139.5p.

Home Cnunties Newspapers firmed 7.5p to 560p as unquoted Eastern Counties Newspapers entered the bid

fray with an agreed deal.

that a merger with an unidentified company was off and it

would incur a first half loss. Helphire, which assists drivers not responsible for accidents, advanced 32p to 382p.

Figures are due next month and stockbroker Killik says buy. Pace Micro's yo-yo per-formance continued, up 6.5p to 82p. A deal to supply 50,000 digital satellite receivers to New Zealand prompted the

Zergo improved 7.5p to ... 250p after clinching a deal to provide elements of a govcommunications system.

Keystone Software feli 5p to 37.5p, a low. Last year the price touched 75p. The New Zealand-based company arrived last year through a reverse takeover of a cash shell

Calidore was formed to operate as a deal-maker or to provide the vehicle for a com- this month. The shares pany to come to market. ...

TAKING STOCK

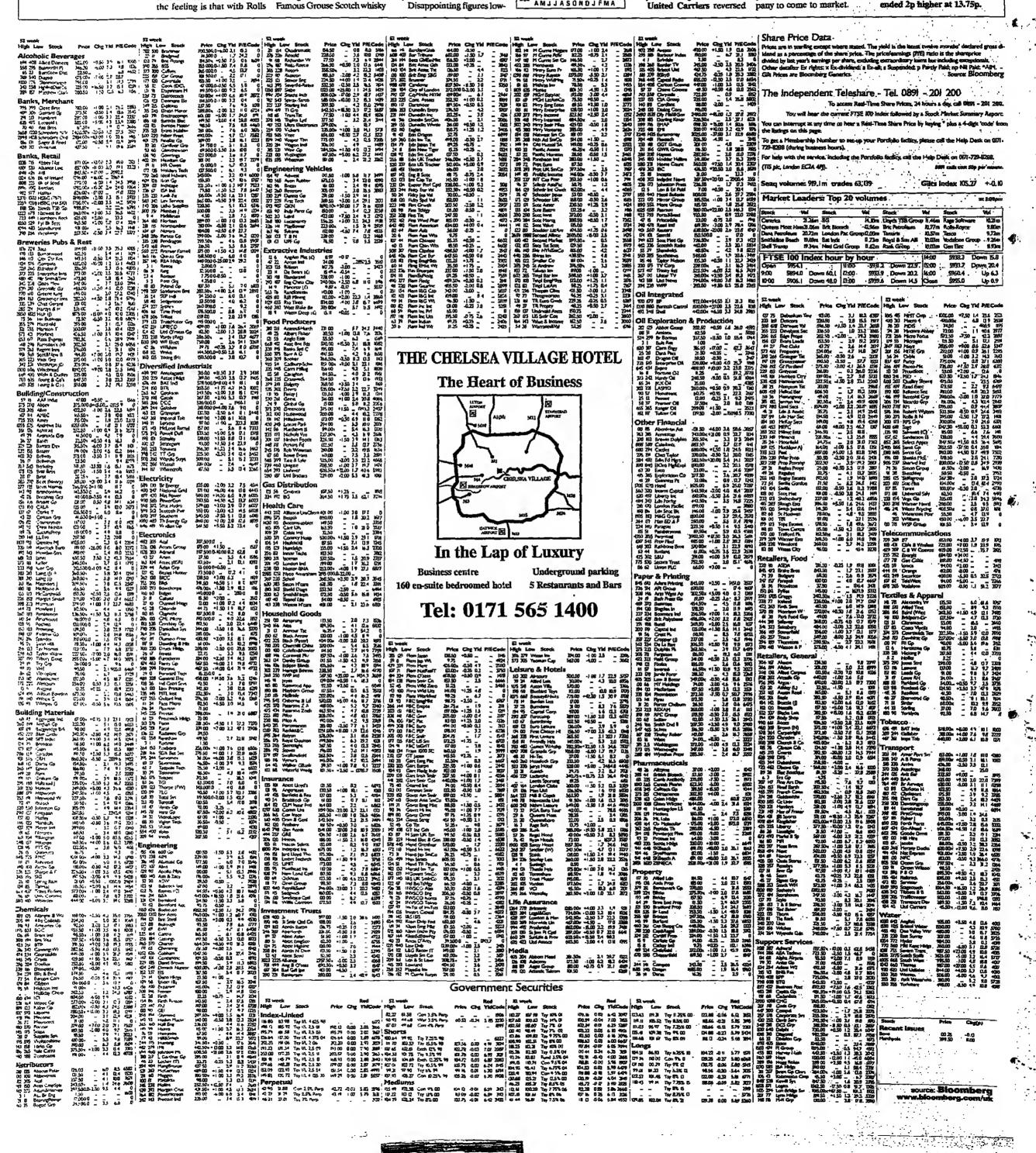
ANTTE, the old Cray Electronics, put on 6p to 71p. In the 12 mouths to April last year it lost £50.4m. Now reshaped as a software company, Anite has met analysts to outline its new policy. It is looking for sales

of £200m by 2,001. CALLUNA added 2p to 15.5p. The disc drive group was encouraged by news filtering across the Atlantic that its major US rival had filed for

chapter 11 bankruptcy.

IMPROVED sentiment among suppliers following a rights issue has dramatically improved trading at Radstone Technology. Instead of the £500,000 loss forecast last month the company now expects to break even. The shares gained 5p to 55-5p.

RAGE, the computer games group, was beavily traded on talk of a US strike and growing expectations for its new game, due to be launched ended 2p higher at 13.75p.



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McKiernan coy about her record prospects

Catherina McKiernan is not talking up her chances for this Sunday's Flora London Marathon. The only statement of intent which could be prised out of her yesterday was a determinution to reach the finish

Indeed, so keen was the quietly spoken farmer's daughter from County Cavan to avoid prohing questions over her aged predictions that she could likely performance that she flew straight back to Duhlin after her promotional appearance and will not return until the day hefore the race.

But this 28-year-old Irish runner has no need to trumpet her chances in what will be only the second marathon of her career. Her record is eloquent

Last October she won the Berlin marathon in 2hr 23min 44sec - the fastest debut time London unheaten on any surrecord which included a prodigious half-marathon victory in half an hour hefore the men.

IT WOULD he fair to say that Hopes are high for an Irishwoman in Sunday's London Marathon. Mike Rowbottom reports

> Lisbon last month over a field including two of her rivals on Sunday, Liz McColgan and the reigning champion. Joyce Chepchumha of Kenya, McKiernan's time of 67min 54sec was the third fastest in history.

That vein of form encourset a world best on the streets of London; indeed, for the first time in seven years, the organisers have insured against that eventuality in the women's

The task became significantis more difficult on Sunday when Kenya's Tegla Loroupe took 19 seconds off the mark Ingrid Kristiansen sei in London 13 years ago, winning the Ronerdam

marathon in 2hr 20min 47sec. Loroupe was paced by two for a woman. She comes to male runners, assistance which would not be available to McKface for just over a year, a liernan as the women run their own race in London, starting

But the Irish runner refused resolutely to he drawn on whether she was capable of improving on Loroupe's time.

'I didn't get very excited about Rotterdam to be honest," she said. "The world record had been there for a long while and it was bound to be broken some time. But I am not thinking about the world record at all." Did that mean that she did not think she was capable of running a world best? "I just have no comment on the world record at all." she said, with a smile that twinkled on the edge of exasperation, "Only the Man Above knows," she added. "You

can't predict what will happen." True, of course. But while the Man Above may be the only one with full knowledge, the sports scientists at Trinity College, Duhlin, where McKiernap receives regular physiological testing, have a pretty good idea

Such has been the level of rmances on the treadmill mut the technicians have been urging McKiernan to step up to the marathon distance for several years. "The tests have shown that I'm made for the marathon more than any other distance," she said.

Data drawn from a visit shortly before her Lisbon halfmarathon pointed to a time within five seconds of the one she achieved. What her visit to the performance laboratory a week ago revealed was something she was not passing nn. But she looked pleased enough about it.

"Things went well. Things are looking good," she said. "Better than her sessing before the Berlin marathon?" she was asked. Reproachful look, "It was a different test, and it wasn't done at the same stage. You can't compare." But we know, and she knows

we know, that something special could be in the offing. McKierpan's decising to

prepare for marathon running was taken in the wake of her

Catherina McKiernan, in London yesterday, looks in excellent form for Sunday's Marathon

frustration at failing to win at nia O'Sullivan took the title in her the World Cross-Country absence, she was sporting enough Championships, where she finished a tantalising second for four successive years.

last month when her Irish rival So- the media back home.

not to hint at it. "I was pleased for Sonia," she said. "She'd been through a tough time and she If she felt a shudder of regret hadn't been treated very well by

PLORP

"Maybe when I get older I will look at myself and say. God, I wish I had won it noe time.' But they are going to be holding the World Cross-Country again next year, aren't they?"

In the meantime, Mckierpan is planning a major advance in her career on a different surface. At least that is what we presume. "If you say very little, it's the safest thing," she

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First Division

9 Bury v Josekin

10 Charlton v Tranmers

11 Crewe v Bractord City

12 Manchester City v OPR

13 Norwach v Swindon

14 Oxford v Bermargham

15 Portsmouth v Fluiddersfield

16 Shetfield United v West Brom

17 Sunderrand v Stoke

18 Welves v Stockport

18 Wildersfield v Middlesbrouch POTENZA 5-02 Pla Puotien (uni-7) Playing Friday: Pon Vale v Middlesbrough Playing Sunday: Notim Forest v Reading. Second Division

season when he scored only 274 Championship runs. But, given the opportunity to lead Durham to victory. Speak seized the chance and scored his first half-

of last season, Chasing a tough, but reach-

century since the opening game

able target of 219 to claim their Glamorgan at Swansea in June 1995, Durham had reached 90 for 5, with Speak unbeaten on 50, and were looking capable of challenging for victory. "It's very disappointing to

finish like this," Speak said. "Last year's behind me, and I have nothing to prove to anybody except myself - I have given 100 per cent whether I have been struggling or bot.

ham Gooch with us for the past to 49 for 4 just after lunch. few days. It's been a great benefit to all the batsman in the sured by someone of his stature.

We thought we could get the runs we needed to win - it's all about believing you can: first away win since beating compete with a side as strong as Warwickshire. Last year was a stabilising one for us, but now we are looking to win games." Both sides were keyed up for

an exciting finale until the rain for half an hour and intervened again in mid-afternoon, limiting the day's play to only 35.1 overs. Warwickshire had seemed

Brown and Ed Giddins made next over, the rain returned.

WORLESTERRING - FIRST I W P C Weston 95, G R Hay Shodes 96 R K Bingworth 61), ESSEX - Second Innings (Overnight: 148 for 3) S G Law C Bhodes b Sheriyar

Iff J Rolling & Scientific ... D R Law & Scianki b Sheriyar ... M C Nott & Hick b Lamout A b Cowan & Havnes b Lamout

C kant c Lampit b Sheriyar Grayson b Sheriyar J Rollins c Sheriyar b llingworth

Fall: 1-58, 2-67, 3-108, 4-221, 5-221, 6-226, 7-226, 8-259, 9-279.

Parking: Newport 22 8-45-1; Sheriyar 24-6-80-4; Lampit 23-5-61-4; Haynes 17-3-59-0; Leatherdaic 3-0-14-0; lingworth 10-5-15-1; Hick 9-3-15-0 WORCESTERSHIRE - Second linkings

Did not bat: W.P.C. Weston, A. Harbez, A. Shenyar, R.K. Engworth, P.J. Newport.

Bowling: Cowan 1-0-19-0; kani 8,3-0-38-4; 11 H Law 1-0-11-0; Grayson 3-0-30-0; Such

mpires: J H Hampshire and J F Steels

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire (23pts) bt Som orset (4) by 215 runs.

Somerser won eass YORKSNIRE – First Innings 383 (D Byas 101, Il Gough 89, M J Wood 92; M E Trescath-ick 4-82).

SOMERSET - First Innings 237 (G D Rose

S R Lampitt c & b Irani.... †S J Rhodes not out Extres (w2, nb4) Total (for 4, 14.3 avers).

Fall: 1-47, 2-103, 3-114, 4-114,

Yorkshire v Somerset

"I have enjoyed having Gra- early inroads, reducing Durham Speak, though, rose to the challenge and grew ever more

squad and it's good to be reas- fluent at the crease. He relegated his batting partner. Martin Speight, to the role of virtual spectator and hit Giddins for two houndaries in one over.

He reached his half-century. his first in 18 Championship innings, off just 73 deliveries with his eighth boundary through midwicket off Edmond and raised Durham's hopes of returned. It had delayed the start - claiming only their fifth Charnpionship away victory in 54 at-

tempts since becoming a first-class coupty. But after Speight had gloved Brown in the likelier victors after Dougie wicketkeeper Tony Frost in the

AXA League.

*D G Cork b Evens ...

Did not but: A J Harns.

Derbyshire v Notts

V P Clarke not out

TK M Krikken b Evans

P Akired not out

Fall: 1-9 2-11 3-18 4-42 5-121 6-155 7-163

Bowling: Sowen 8-2-35-4; Evans 7-1-23-2; Wharf 8-0-23-1; Strang 7-0-34-0; Bates 6-0-25-0; Gallian 4-0-23-1

NOTTINGHANSHIRE: M P Dowman, M N Bower, JER Geller, "Pulchaser, G F Archer, N A Gra. K P Evena, HV M Noon, P A Strang, R T Bates, A G Whart,

Umpires: J C Baldarstone and M J Harris

Sussex v Lancashire

Fell: 1-24, 2-63, 3-84, 4-85, 5-166, 8-202. Did not but: D J Stractions, G Chappie, R. Green, P.J. Martin.

Bowling: Newal 6-1-29-0; Kirtley 8-0-41-2; Davis 8-1-28-1; Robinson 8-0-29-1; Martin

SUSSEX: W G Khan, *C J Adams, R K Reo. K Greenfield, J R Carpenter, K Newell, †P Moores, R S G Martin-Jenkins, R J Kintley, R P Davis, M A Robinson.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and D R Shepherd

HOVE: Sussess wor loss

G D Lloyd b Robinson

LANCASHIRE

right mood for Yorkshire

White in the

CRAIG WHITE, who has his sights on an England recall this season, returned figures of 4 for 13 in 122 overs as Yorkshire clinched a 215-run win over Somerset vesterday in the opening County Championship match at Headingley.

White took four of the five wickets to fall on the final morning but the visitors, despite being hit hy illness, fought doggedly and prolonged their resistance until just before lunch, when Andrew Caddick was last man out. Resuming on 46 for 5 and

305 runs short of victory, Somerset ran into further trouble as soon as the first ball had been bowled by Paul Hutchison, Simon Ecclestone's knee appeared in lock and he was forced to retire hurt for 16 to be replaced by Piran Holloway.

After nearly an hour of resistance by Holloway and Marcus Trescothick, it was White who broke through when Hulloway, attempting a defensive shot, played an for six.

Trescothick's 80-minute innings, which contained four boundaries, was ended by a return catch by White and, although Ecclestone returned to the crease with a runner, he lost Graham Rose, who was well caught by Bradley Parker on the long-leg boundary during a good spell by Darren Gough.

A Alexander

Ecclestone battled on bravely for a time before falling liw to White's slower ball and the all-rounder then had Caddick caught behind the wicket, leaving Kevin Shine on 15 not out.

Elsewhere, a result was manufactured at Canterbury despite the wet weather. After Middlesex were dismissed for 228 in their first innings, Kent forfeited theirs and served up some silly bowling in a brief Middlesex second knock. Set 252 to win off a minimum of 60 overs. Kent reached their target for the loss of six wickets. Alan Wells led the way with 77,

Worcestershire saw nff Essex by six wickets at New Road. thanks largely to a knock of 53 from Vikram Solanki, Stuart Law scored 87 in Essex's second innings of 310.

Rain denies Durham chance of victory

Cricket

By Myles Hodgson at Edghaston

Warwickshire 336 & 187 Durham 305 & 90-5 Match drawn

NICK SPEAK ended his personal run of failures but was denied the opportunity of improving Durham's away record in the Britannic Assurance County Championship when rain washed out a possible exciting finish against Warwickshire here yesterday.

The former Lancashire batsman, who left Old Trafford to secure regular first-team crickct a year agn, but in his debut

Scoreboard

Kent v Middlesex

MIDDLESEX - First Inhing

lotal (for 0 dec, 5 overs) .

Final day of four

Britannic Assurance

County Championship

Did not bat: "M R Ramprakash, M W Getting O A Shah, D C Nesh, †K R Brown, R L John-son, J P Hewitt, A R C Fraser, T F Bigomfletd

Bowling: Walker 3-0-16-0, Patel 2-0-7-0

Fall: 1-5, 2-36, 3-127, 4-170, 5-208, 6-223, Did not bet: M M Patel, D W Headley, 2 J Philips.

Bowling: Fraser 204-1-73-1; Hewitt 14-3-49-2: Beomfield 6-1-29-1; Johnson 14-2-71-2: Ramprakash 5-1-16-0

Surrey v Northamptonshire

Nornampiorszne won loss SUR REY - Finst Innings (Saturday: 88 for 1) M A Butcher c G P Swann b Taylor J D Radoffle c A J Swann b Malcolan ... N Shahid at Replay b G P Swann

Total (for 5 dec, 84 overs) _____ Fall: 1-57, 2-135, 3-170, 4-325, 5-339.

FA Carling Premiership

THE OVAL: Surrey (7pts) drew with North-amptonshire (5).

Sunday: Derby v Leicester, Play day: Crystal Palace v Man Utd.

Nationwide Football League First Division

Umpires: J H Harrs and F Julian.

Did not bat; † J. N. Batty, I. D. K. Safisbury, M. P. Bickneif, J. E. Benjamin.

HORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First landings I R Montgomeria c Brown b B Hollicalus 13 J Swann c Batty b B Hollicales29

ORTHAMPTONSHIRE - Second lanlings H H Montgomene not out
A J Swann c A Holicake b B Holicake
G P Swann not out Total (for 1, 13 overs) _

Did not best: M B Loye, D J G Sales, R J Bai-ley, "K M Curran, D J Capel, †D Ripley, J P Taylor, D E Malcolm. Bowting: B C Hollicalie 4-0-17-1; Salebury 6-1-13-0; Shahad 3-0-15-0. Umpires: G I Burgess and B Dudieston. Warwickshire v Durham

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (10pts) drew with Durham (10). Durham won toss WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings 336 (N M K Smith 113, D L Hemp 52, M M Botts 5-DURHAM - First Innings 305 (O C Boon 107, P D Collingwood 105; E 5 H Galdins 6-58, D R Brown 4-89).

WARWICKSHIRE - Second Inn (N M K Smith 90). DURHAM - Second Innings
JJ B Lews c Lera b Brown
M A Roseberry Ibw b Giddins
JE Morris c Lara b Brown
N J Speak not out
"O C Goon b Edmond
M P Speak to Frost b Brown
Extras for Iba haz

Extras (b), b8, nb2) Total (for 5, 35.1 overs) .. Fall: 1-5, 2-26, 3-34, 4-49, 5-90. Bowling: Gddins 14-5-47-1; Brown 12.1-7-23-3, Altree 2-2-0-0; Edmond 7-3-13-1 Umpires: K E Paimer and A G T Whitehear

Worcestershire v Essex WORCESTER: Worcestershire (23pts) be Essex (4) by six wickets. We won toss

ESSEX - First Innings 257 (N Hus A P Grayson 53; A Sherryar 4-60).

Weekend fixtures and pools forecast Third Division

30 Barnet v Mansfield 31 Brighton v Hull ... 32 Combridge Vid v Notis County 33 Coloborous I with County

Beil's Scottish League Premier Division

First Division 45 Falkirk v Dundee 46 Morton v Ayr.... 47 Partick v Hamitton 48 Ratth v Strling Albion 49 St Minen v Airdnie ...

Four draws: Choises v Liverpool, Manchester City v CPR, Brighton v Hull Hearts v Rengers. Five aways: Arsenal, powers, Bristol Rovers. Notes Courty, Audie.

Fa8: 1-4, 2-8, 3-8, 4-43, 5-43, 6-84, 7-91, 8-119, 9-120

lowling: Gough 14-4-61-2; Silverwood 13--34-2; Hutchison 10-5-15-2; White 12:2-5-13-

Starting today SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three, 11.0 start): Canterbury: Kent

Today's fixtures Football

7.30 unless stated INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES
England v Portugal (8.0)
(at Werbiey stadum)
Northern Ireland v Switzerland
(at Windsor Park, Belfast)
Republic of Ireland v Argentins
(et Lansdowne Road, Dublin)
Sootland v Finlend (8.0)
(at Easter Road, Edinburgh)
Swaden v France (7.45)
(at Rasunde stadum, Stockholm,
Denmark v Norway (8.15)
(at Parken stadium, Copenhagen
(at Parken stadium, Copenhagen

(at Parken stacken, Copenhagen)
Italy v Peraguay (7.45)
(at Ernio Ruthni stacken, Perma)
Belgium v Romania (7.0)
(at Kung Baudoin stacken, Brusseke
Austria v United States
(at Ernst Happel stacken, Vienna)
Germany v Nicorki (at Ernst Happel stadium, Vienna)
Germany v Nigeria
[at Mingersolorier stadium, Cologna]
Choatia v Potamd (7.15)
(at Gradul stadium, Cologla)
Slovenia v Czech Republic
(at Beddyrad stadium, Liubijana)
Russia v Turkey (5.30)
(at Lokomotiv stadium, Moscow)

UNDER-21 INTERNAL TO THE INTERNAL TO THE INTERNAL TO THE INTERNAL THE UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Div Gansborough v Fitcher, First Div Whitby v Lincoln Ust

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Divi-sion: Paget Rangers v Wisbech (7.45): VS-Rugby v Baston (7.45), Southern Division: Dartford v Clevedon JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE CUP Final: Warboys v Woodbridge (745) (at Julius Mar-tin Lane, Scham)

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Durham v Tow Law, Morpeth v Guisborough; Seaham Red Star v Crook JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Aerostruc-

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST League Premier Division: Denaby v Huckneit; Hat-lam v Thackley. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divisione Prescol v Nantwick UNLIET BUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Hallsham y Burgess Hill

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Bridport v Bideford. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Tunbridge Walls v Shappay. LEAGUE OF WALES: Commertor v Bangor City (7.45); First v Aberystwyth; Weish-pool v Cannains Ouzy. HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Firm Herps

PONTINA LEAGUE Premier Divisions. Birmingham v Aston Villa (7:15): Manches-ter Utid v Everton (70). First Divisions Bolton V Olcham (70): Middlestrough v Manchester City (70): West Bromwich v Wolves (70).

(7.5); Rochdale v Sheffield Uid (70); Shrewsbury v Blackpool (70); Stockport v Wreshem (70); Third Division: Scumhor-pe v Newcaste (70); Walsali v Doncaster

AVON INSUFFANCE COMBINATION First Division: Charles v Southerspion (20), Luton v Chelese (20); Portemouth v (pswich (70); Swindon v Westrot (73); Arsenal v Milwell (20) (at Southbury Road, Enfast). Rugby League

PIUGBY LEAGUE Second Division: Bramley v Olcherti (7.45). Rugby Union

ALLIED DUNBAR PREVIERSHIP DOE: Wasps v Newcastle (7.45); Northampton v London Irish (7.30) Premierahip Two 43 Moseley v Coventry (7.30) TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP Division 1A Curie Vikisionians (730), Division 19; Sizing County v Edinburgh Academical (730), Division 2A; Keiso v Gala (735), Division 3B; Hillheed/Jordankii v Ayr (730)

Speedway

7.30 unless stated THIRD TEST: England Under 21 v LUKol Russia (at Huit). SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: King's Lynn v ip-swich (7.45); Poole v Eastbourne.

Other sports anooken: Embassy World Championship (at The Crucible, Sheffield).

BOWLS: Women's World Indoor Championship (at Lianelli).



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oimal sand y dist the sicft : renmalnt of

Alner eager for another Dawn chorus

By Sue Montgomery

DEPENDING on your priori-

which a winner of the Chelture Derby hero in passing, and as such is part of the variety and tradinon of the sport in this country.

Two of the industry's viewpoints can be represented within half an hour: the enjoyment of the crack of winning, and the angst over whether investment in a choicely-bred three-year-old colt has been worth it.

If the rain gods relent and the going at Esher lightens up, then Cool Dawn will represent a fairly rare hreed: a Gold Cup

LEND A HAND impressed in

a work-out at Southwell ves-

terday and is all set for the 2,000

Guincas. The colt, partnered by

his big-race jockey Darryll Hol-

CHEPSTOW

FISO, STRO, DF: SSGO, CSF; SSST, Tricast; ST689
3.40; 1. SAFFRON MOSS (Miss F Wisson) 33-1; 2. Archer 12-1; 3. Mr Mad 25-1
11 ran. 7-2 fav Twitight Tom. 21/s. 77. Mrs S
Farr), Tote: E0750; \$1080, 52.70, 5680, DF: £44350. CSF; 533480, NRs; Celtic Daugnier, Gunner Scen. Tho: £2890 - part won.
Pool of £28744 to Epsom 3.40 today,
4.10; 1. POLAR PROSPECT (G Terrey)
4.9 fav. 2. Grand Goussier 3-1; 3. Moditure
Wave 5-1.7 ran. 2. dist. (P Hobbo), Totes
£40; £10, £180, DF; £180, CSF; £221,
4.40; 1. OWENBWEE (Mr J O Moore) 201; 2. Ambieside 7-4; 3. Docklands Courte
£20; £18 ran. 4-6 fav Cool Gunnet 11/s. dist.
(F Ahen, Totes £1850, £220, £40; £140, DF;
£730, CSF; £1956.
5.16; 1. KLRBIDE LAD (A Maguire) 64; 2. Zeggy Lance 20-1; 3. Teal Bay 20-1

4: 2. Zeggy Lane 20:1; 3. Teal Bay 20:1; 11 ran. 4:5 fav Iranos. 2; 8. (D Nicholson). Tota: £270; £150; £230; £150; £250; £250; £250; £150; £260; £270; Placeport £6800; Quedport £6180; Place 6; £3112; Place 5; £1799;

FOLKESTONE

2.00: 1, LIVELY LADY (R Cochrane): 11-4; 2, Credenza 5-2 fer; 3, Mystic Lady 9-2, 6 ran, 13, 5, 1] Jonkins): 10th; (330; (174); (190, DP; (150, CSF; 1864); (190, DP; 150, CSF; 1864); (190, DP; 150, CSF; 1864); (190, DP; 150, CSF; 1864); (190, DP; 180, 180, 180, 180, 180); (190, DP; 180, 180); (190, DP; 180); (190,

11-8 fav 11 ran. 3. 4. (P. Cole). Totat £500; £230, £220, £160 DF: £2880. CSF: £7397.

Trio: \$27.90 3.00; 1. El El (J.D Smith) 11-4 fav; 2. King

of The River 6-1: 3. Goldhups 14-1-10 rsn. 5. 31/s. (8 Hile) Tota: 5270; 5180, 5280, 5280 DF, 51450, CSF: 51904 The: 53830.NR: As-

thony Mon Amour 3.30: 1. SHANILLO (T Ourn) 9-2; 2. Faute de Mieux 10-1; 3. Sera Moon Clas-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Putuna (Epsom 4.15)

NB: State Fair (Epsom 3.10)

sic 15-1 11 ran. 11-8 fav Double Brandy (Sih).
14. 31/h. (M Channon). Tote: £730; £150; £320;
£430 DF: £3330 CSF: £4559, MT: £7565
Lady. Trio: £78300 - part won. Pool of £78305
to Epsom 3-40 today.
4.00; 1, £LA AGAPI MOU (Candy Mor-

ns; 11-2; 2. Kingstold Pet 3-1 tav; 3. Par-adise Navy 4-1 9 ran. 10, 8. (G.L. Moore). Tote: 51.70; 5280, 5150, 5170, DF: 5150, CSF: 52234, 7ncast: 57041, 7nio: \$1460.

CSF: 52:23.4 Tricast: \$70:41 Trics \$14:60.
4:30: 1. FAIRTY KNIGHT (K Fallog) 5-1 Ji tay; 2. Rear Window 3-1 Ji tay; 3. Little Cracker 14-1 14 ran, 17-1, 17-1, (R Hannon). Tote: \$250: \$1-60. \$100: \$200. \$150: \$250. \$250. \$151. \$160: \$1.00: \$

PONTEFRACT

2.15: 1.8UE ME (A Nichols) 8-1; 2. Mun-go Park 100-30 fav; 3. Henry The Hawk 9-1 12 ran. 11/r, hd. (D Nichols) Total: \$3.0; \$3.00 £180, £290, DF: \$7700 CSF: \$2795; Trocast: £225.09 700: \$82.00, MR, Millstrian Porton.

2.50: 1. CHARLIES BRIDE (K Darley) 20-

2.50:1, CHARULES BRIDE (K Carely 2)-12, Birchiesod Sun 6-1: 3, Leigh Crofter 16-1 16 ran, 7-4 tav Octor, 7, 1 (J J O'Neil) Tota: (22.30: 5290 52.20: 5290 DF: £15440 CSF, £3354, Tro: £29140 3.20: 1, TEROOM (M Roberts) 4-5 tav; 2, Richmond Hill 10-1: 3, Marriene 8-1, 11 ran, 1, 24, (A Stewart) Tota: £160; £130, £280, £250; DF: £220 CSF, £115; Trio:

ran. 1, 2% (A Sevent) Tolas Libb., 130 C280, E250. DF: 2820 CSF. 2115. Trib. 5184 De Boss (13.2) withdrawn not under orders. Rule a applies to board prices only, deduction. top in the pount.

3.50: 1, HiGH-RISE (J Weaver) 2-1 tan.

2. Generous Libra 11-2.3 Chint Chimhey.

7-2 8 ran. 6 %, 2%, (L Cumeri) Totar 5290; CTSC. 5190. E190. DF: £1000 CSF. £253.

4.20: 1, DISPOL DIAMOND (P Fessey) 8-1; 2, Tarts weal 8-1; 3, Alight 10-1. 15 ran.

3-1 tae Magic Mil (4th) Hd. 1%, (G Oldrayd) 10-tae (2000; E300, E190, E300 IF: 500-0. CSF. 52144. Tricast: 2505-12. Tho. £160-2.

4-50: 1, HiGH-FIELD FIZZ (L Cremod) 6-1; 2, Jennalism Fight 3-4 tan. 3, Sun Alast 13-4 5 ran. 3, C (C Fearhurst) Totar E880; E290, E200, DF: 5000, CSF. 52711.

5.20: 1, SARAM STOKES (D Nobland) 2-3 tay. 2, Bitaberry Parkus 16-1; 3, Morgan Le Fay 7-1, S tan. 1%, hd. (R Goest: Newmarket), Totar 5220; E300 CSF. 5230. DF: 5250. DF: 5250. DF: 5250. DF: 5250. Jennalism Refer, Totar 5220; E190; E240, E290. DF: 5250. Jennalism Roberts (Policia CSF. 5220. DF: 5250. Jennali

pot: Not won. Pool of £20144.76 car-

ned forward to Ensort today.
Placepot £23520 Quadpot: £13.01
Place 6: £1273. Place 5: £5650

INDEPENDENT

land, galloped for a mile.

Results

A dab Hand

winner who contests the Whit- year. Only three men - Neville point-to-point," he said, "The bread in the year of his Chel-

Post Chase winner Super Tactics entered, will be going for a double of his own, baving scored with Harwell Lad last

HYPERION'S

Crump, Fulke Walwyn and Kim hack-to-back Whitbreads with

"How people love the sport

horses were moderate, it was them, and when I was riding I will be a fresh horse on Satur- Alner's life; no flood of new tions couldn't have been worse having to worry about the fiand they were racing for only nancial side.

out of the rain in front of the the warm feeling inside."

has now shifted towards the

"It had always been at the

"No-one had to be there, back of my mind to set up as a get but the Whithread, and he pride and pleasure emanating uld have been at home trainer, and there came a time when everything seemed to fit TV. But there was not a cross, into place. Injury stopped me discontented face to be seen. riding I bought an exara 70 acres They weren't doing it for the on chalk, ideal for the horses. and it became apparent I had some potentially decent horses. It was as if fate was playing its hand and it would have been silly not to take advantage."

At the Grand National meeting it seemed that Aintree was a bridge too soon for those who had competed at Chel-

training him, chucked him out Farm. But anyone who has is the field and gave him time doubts about any return on into relax. There was no other tar- vestment only had to witness the soon put back on the 20 kilos

"We hope the ground dries out a bit because he's in great form and will not be as well handicapped ever again. But if it's soft he won't be there. We could tell Andrew [Thornton] to pull him up if he wasn't going well, but there's no point in running just to do that. He is such a good, bold, brave horse I'd hate to disappoint him."

Winning the Gold Cup has

"The farm used to keep tenham. Cool Dawn, though, as yet made little difference to owners at the gate of Locketts

from the winners' enclosure at Cheltenham as Alner and owner Dido Harding welcomed their hero. That warm feeling inside, to be sure. Prospects for the Whitbread

meeting at Sandown which gets under way on Friday improved vesterday. "Conditions have generally improved but our higgest problem area would be the five-furlong track, which in places is very, very soft and some of the ground is false, "Andrew Cooper, clerk of the course, said. In the Whitbread betting. Coral cut David Gandolfo's Carole's Crusader to 9-1 from

 Today's scheduled race meeting at Redcar has been abandoned hecause the course is waterlogged.

Pursuers close the gap on Heiner

Sailing

By Stuart Alexander in Baltimore

ROY HEINER and the crew of Brunel Sunergy will have been casting anxious glances over the stern yesterday as their lead in the seventh leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race was steadily ground down.

The chasing pair of Swedish Match and EF Language had cut the Dutchman's lead from 46 miles to 17 miles iast night. As the leaders plotted their

course into Chesapeake Bay and a possible finish in Baltimore today, the weather could yet reshuffle the pack by dealing new cards in the 120-mile run up the Bay.

Positions were constantly changing as the fourth to ninth placed boats were spread over less than 10 miles. The forecast today is for a lot of rain and not much wind, which may only add to the misery of George Collins as he desperately attempts to bring Chessie Racing into her home port at the head of the fleet.

Lawrie Smith and navigator Vincent Geake are already upset as fifth-placed Silk Cut's vital satellite communications system has again broken down. cutting them off from weather information.

Gunnar Krantz (Swedish Match) and Paul Cayard (EF) had broken away by 20 miles from Knut Frostad in Innovation Kvaerner, with the Norwegian in fourth place. separated from Dennis Conner, last in Toshiba, by less than 10

Collins was seventh, just behind Grant Dalton in Merit Cup, but seven miles away from Frostad and knowing the whole of Baltimore was hanging on to hourly reports on his fortunes. MHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD (severath leg, 870 miles, Fort Lauderdale to Baitmore): 1 Buret Superpy (Neth) R Heart 2968 miles to this; 2 Sweich Metch (Swe) G Krantz 177 miles behind leader, 3 EF Language (Swe) P Ceyard +214; 4 Innovation Kweemer (Nor) K Frostad +388; 5 Sik Cut (GB) L Smith +402; 8 Metri Cut (Mor) K (GB) L Smith +402; 8 Metri Cut (Mor) G Dalton +473; 7 Chestele Rating (US) G Collina 493; 8 Efficication (Swe) C custou +517; 9 Tochaba IUS) If Conner +536.

Giants miss ban

Basketball

MANCHESTER GIANTS' American pair Steve Mc-Glothin and Michael New have escaped a ban and can play against Peugeot Bullets Birmingham in the first semi-final of the Budweiser Championship play-offs at Wembley Arena on Saturday week.

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McGlothin and New were thrown out of Manchester's defeat against the league champions, Greater London Leopards, in the first game of their best-of-three quarter-final, for leaving the team bench to join a fracus on court.

The English Basketbad Association's disciplinary officer, Morris Wordsworth, vesterday decided against increasing their penalty points total to 10, which would have brought an automatic ban.

The England international Peter Scantlebury, who has a record 121 caps, has been named Player of the Year for the third time by the Association, who have awarded the women's title to Julia Richardson, of Thames Valley Lady Tigers, for the first time.

Scantlebury's experience helped Newcastle Eagles to reach third place in the Budweiser League, although they then lost to London Towers in the play-offs. Towers now play Thames Valley Tigers at Wem-

Michael Jordan, who has just won the National Basketball Association's scoring title for the 10th time, leads the Chicago Bulls into their title defence against the New Jersey Nets in the first round of the

play-offs. play-curs.

NBA PLAY-OFFS (best of five) First round: Eastern Confetence: Charlote v Atlanta, Mismir v New York, Indiana v Cleveland, Chicago v New Jersey, Western Conference: Ulah v Houston, Phoenix v San Amorio, Seattle v Minnesota. Los Angeles I steers in Dendand

ties, it is either the last hurrah peerless Arkle 33 years ago from the jump season or a pre- has completed the double in 41 different horses. cursor of great things at Epson. years of sport's longest stand-But call it Whitbread day or ing sponsorship; the last one to enjoying - and the word is used Classic Trial day, Saturday's try was Ten Up, down the field card at Sandown is (this year, at Sandown behind April Sevweather allowing) a unique one enth in 1975. (Master Smudge is only his fifth with a public liin the British racing calendar. ... was unplaced in 1980, but he did It is the only occasion on not become that year's Gold

Cup winner until a few weeks lenham Gold Cnp or the Grand Later, on the disqualification of National might whinny to a fur. Tied Cottage).

tenham triumph. Only one - the Bailey - have previously won cold and muddy, the condi- was having the fun without day. Alner said: "We stopped Dorset-based Alner, 54, is

advisedly - his best season in the terms of quality and quantity. It cence, like Cool Dawn he has graduated from the point-topoint field, in which sphere he was champion rider as recenthy as 1992. And though he is now Cool Dawn's trainer Robert keeping the best professional Alner, who also has Racing company, he will not desert his

> was brought home to me on Sunday at the Cothelstone

2.05: The in-form Sean Woods yard

fields Shamonic, well drawn near the

inside rails. SELHURSTPARK FLY-

ER is on the wide outside, but his

liking for this downland track, and

soft going, should enable him to

£80.

money. They were doing it for Ainer still runs the 300-acre dairy establishment near Droop where he was born, though with the slump in the farming industry his husiness emphasis

enough on his seasonal debut.

2.35: ACHILLES is sufficiently well 3.10: If State Fair could recognize thought of at home to have been supbe could well defy the burden of top plemented for the Derby at a cost of £8,000. This colt is only small but Beat is fit from hurdling, ARTIC is a tough sort who should act well around this switchback course. The Glow-Worm rates a hig danger is til

his form of last spring and summer. COURIER wears a visor for the tirst time and this sprightly seven-yearold is a course and distance winner.

surface and must rate a threat. Another mud-lover, ALMOND ROCK. looks primed for this, however, following a good second at Kempton (106) last time. Present Arms was to be a fitt closer over this longer trip.

FORM FLYER

Almond Rock will be a popular choice after belang all har American Whisper in the Rosebery at Kertigion and Prince Of Dantal will also be tanced after finishing fourth in the
same race. Prince Of Dantal will also be tanced after finishing fourth in the
same race. Respect Of Denail would have finished much floser had he employed the run of
the race. Both increases are well suited by softish going, whereast ANOTHER TIME needs
restrictly assignment in as writing record a sampting to go by Time surparabilities shown
acting on an easy suitable, nowwer, and the reason for thinking he might upset more obtract caronitates here is the booking of Par Eddery. Eddery rode Another Time just once
best season, when he bear Strato in a handloap at Newbury. Another Times subsequent
second to Danson Rhappody in a field of that Glonous Goodwood suggests he has what
it buses to win a compensive handloap at this level. The Henry Cacil stable mash really
got going yet but Monitor is a lightly-raced four-year-old who can be expected to improve and pay his way, and there bould still be better to come from Ganga, who ended
her meet-year-old season with nice wins out of three under today's hide. Gary Hind. A
fraction win at Newcastle shows she can run well fresh on testing ground, Glizzbourg
firshed light in the Lincoln but was down the field in the Rosebery, Half, eightin to Humler;
Of Sinna at Docuscaster, bear Sever Groom at Newmarket last summer but in remains to be
seen if he can produce that tast-ground form today. The same applies to River's Source,
who point early need that as he wasn't seen out after July last year. However, his Newmarket win was in a compeliable the Shunner handloop and hes achieved the first

With Mich Charmon getting winners, it would be no surprise to see Abaj Selection. 4.15 SPRING MEETING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 114yds

œ	FALLAH (579) (F D Savil) Lady Herres 4 9 10 A Clark 8
5-0	SAGUARD (22) (BP) (Shelich Lighean Al Makroum) J Gostlen 4 9 to G Hind 9
34-	AIR ATTACHE (USA) (223) (Kheirta Dasmal) G Lewis 389 Paul Endory 2
٥	DESERT ARROW (USA) (284) (BF) (Makroum Al Makroum) E Duniop 3 8 9 . W Ryan 7
	GLORY OF GROSVENOR (198) (BF) (R E Sangster) F Chapple-Hyam 3 8 9 . J Reid 5
	SPRING FEVER (173) (Rey Pachands) 6 His 3 8 9
	TAJONE (Lt., P W Harrs) P Harris 3 89 K Fellon 10
	ARCEVIA (turgecown Racing) M Channon 3 5 4
	NANCY MALOHEY (Gran Kerredy) Miss G Kelaway 3 8 4 R Pirench 6
23.	PUTUNA (190) (Flobert Hictoris) Baking 3 & 4 M Roberts 1
	~ 10 declared -

BETTING: 5-2 Glory of Grosvenor, 7-2 Putuna, 9-2 Dasert Arrow, 5-1 Air Attache, 8-1 Seguaro, 1 Spring Fever, 16-1 Fedah, Tejine, 25-1 others 1577, Supply And Demand 3 8 9 K Febru 2-1 of the (G. L. Mode) chart (S) 10 run Edisan is type?

Given his debut in a traditionally his Hewbury race, GLORY OF GROSVENOR showed promise when fourth to Teapor flow on an easy surface and the subsequent odds on detect of Portetract last October was on good to firm. That settack worn look so bod if Dashing Check who bead Giory Of Grosvenor at Pontetract, goes well in the 23s, but Glory Of Grosvenor has a face of this sort in any case. The chef three could be the fifty putturia, who faced an even tougher task than Glory Of Grosvenor first time out, in the valuable conditions race wor by Tumarisk a Newmenter. That is that useful cott, Putturia was beaten by two newcomers in a filliest maiden at Doncaster alterwards but promises to be better this year.

Selection: GLORY OF GROSVENOR

4.45 CUDDINGTON LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) \$5,000

		added 1m 114yds
		KAFIL (USA) (13) (M R Pascal) J Snager 4 9 10
!	0/105-	FOREST BOY (J20) (D) (C R Marks (Barbury)) M R Bosley 5 9 8 J Rek
ĺ		MYTTONS MISTAKE (22) (P State) R Hodges 5 9 8 T Sprake
ļ	043630	STOPPES BROW (21) (C.J. Pannely & L. Moore B. 9 B
	50000-	GEE BEE DREAM (180) (Grant & Bowmen Linded) A Jarvis 4 9 5 D Sweeney (3)
		ZURYAF (14) (Abbert Rooms Limited) & Mechan 3 87 Pat Endery
,		PERSIAN SABRE (183) (Persian War Racing) V Soarie 3 6 4
	Trus. C. c.	Can Dan Santa & C St. stone Matches P & Change Daniel P & Kall Buston Cab

"> 7 declared
BETTING: 3-1 Gee Bee Dream, 4-1 Mystone Mistake, 5-1 Stoppes Brow, 5-1 Kelli, Persian Sabre, 7-1 Forest Boy, Zuryaf.

1977 La Modein 4 8 5 K Palon 7-1 (Mass G Kelevey) drawn (12) 13 ran FORM FLYER

GEE BEE DREAM lost her way in the section held of last season but she has plently going for her in that she won first time out last year and goes on testing ground (fourth of its behind to Aleit at Newtastet. Between those two runs, Gee Bee Dream also beat all ast years Derby meeting, so she acts on the track. Stoppes Brow (without the usual headgear) is looking for his first win in almost two years, although that was on soft ground at Newbury and recent érforts on the act weather show he still has ability. Mystonis Mistake will come on for the nut behind Ooler at Nothingham, where he carried fen stone, but has yet to win on ground softer than good.

PFP32 HALHARI TAKN [18] (D) H Marrics 8 Ti 3:

D-000 KBLLING TIME (189 5 Lews 7 11 1) ... Mr C R Weaver (7)

45792 KING OF SHADOWS (8) Mas C Create in 17 dMr B Pror (7)

55797 MR FLANAGAN (45) C Sweding 12 Ti 13 Mr E James (7) B

073946 RUSTIC GENT (22) (D) 5 Levis 10 Ti 2. Mics E J. Jones (7)

15-62 SAYMORE (25) (D1 P Morts 2 Ti 13 ... Mr C J B Barlow (7)

RTPRP SCRIPT (23) (CD) M Macphy 7 Ti 11 ... Mr McAllister (7) B

67995 THE COMMUNICATOR (382) M HI 2 Ti 13 ... Mr McAllister (7) B

16 Communication (page) at the 16 Till Millermond (?) B

5 PiPPS- TOP IT ALL (333) (D) P Harriss 10 Till 18 Harriss (?) B

16 PS0-44 TUDOR FABLE (22) (CD) C Second 10 Till 18 Harriss (?) B

- 16 declared
BETTING: 3-1 Principle Music, 4-1 Beau Bebilland, 11-2 Good For A Laugh, B-1 Tudor Feble, 10-1 Hefisam Term, King Of Shadows, 12-1 others

Epsom

HYPERION 2.05 Selhurstpark Flyer

2.35 Achilles 3.10 Artic Courier

3.40 Almond Rock (nb) 4.1S Putuna 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

GOING: Soft.

GOING: Soft.

GOING: Soft.

STALLS: 61 - outside; final - cartire; remeasider - neede.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 5t; low best for 6t 8.7t

Left-hand course, sharp and undusting. The straight 5t is the factast in the course;

Rescuciuse is south of rown - 15 miles from the centre of London, Three real stations serve the course. Epsom (trains from Victoria and Waterloo) and the nearer Epsom Downs (Victoria) and Britischism Corner (Chargin Cross and Victoria). ADMISSION: Queen's Stand 3t6 17 to 21-year-olds 5t2); Grandstand 5t0; Lonedale Enclosure 5t, Geocompanied under-17s free all enclosures). CAR PARIC Lonedale 5t2; Tationhum 52; remainder free.

LEADING TRAINES WITH RUNNERS: M Johnston 9 winners from 34 numers; [success rate 255%]. J Dunlop 9-37 (24.3%), J Berry 7-33 (21.2%). P Cola 7-57 (12.3%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 15 winners from 73 rides (success rate 20.5%).

FAVOURITES: 92 wins from 263 races (success rate 35%).

BLINKERIED FIRST TIME: Sharberland (340), Artic Courser (viscord, 310).

2.05 BANSTEAD STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) C4

			RATING
1		1500-0	SELHURSTPARK FLYER (25)(CD) (C & A Deaters) J Berry 7 10 0 P Roberts (3) 11 9
2		40500	JAYANNPEE (206) (U) (I A Balding) 1 Balding 7.9 13Learna Mesterton (7) 3.9
3		46800-	KING OF PERU (214) (D) (M C S D Racing) N Literaden 5 B 12
•		JD4-71	JOHNNI (13) (D) (J M Bradley) J M Bradley 4 9 TO
Š			DESERT LYNX (9) (D) (Mrs RT Watson) T Watson 5 8 9 \$ Sanders 9 9
6			SHAMANIC (181) (D) (Aston House Stud) 5 Woods 689K Fallon 2 9
7	. '		CAUDA EQUINA (9) (D) (Michael A Foy) M Channon 488 7 Quint 7 8
8	•		EASTERN PROPHETS (8) (D) (Mrs. J.M. Purches) G Lews 5 6 4 Paul Eddary 10 7.
B	٠.		THE FUGATIVE (15) (CU) (I A Redmond) P Michel 5 7 11
10	-		MARENGO (16) (D) (JE Shero) J Akerural 4 7 TO
Ħ			PLEIN GAZ (FR) (19) (D) (M R Pascall) J Bridger 5 7:10 G Barchwell 4: 9
			- 11 declared -

Minimum projekt 7st 10th. True terrelicing weights: Plein Gaz 7st 3th.
BETTINGS 4-1 Marcogo, Setturstpark Flyer, 11-2 Junies, The Fugative, 7-1 King Of Pero, Stu Ic., 8-1 Crude Equies, 12-1 Desart Lyne, 26-1 Erstern Prophets, Jayanopeo, 33-1 Plein Gaz. 1987. Lord Cifries 7 6 ti L Destri 13-2 (W Jarves) drawn (7) to ray

Self-Lord Univer 1 on 11 Descriptors to warrant country a more property of the or birt too. Jumps has two recent ell-weather wins to his credit. King Of Peru (seventh threshed about four lengths behind Selfurstpark Fiver in the Wokingham and brily about a length and a half behind Denettine in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood, He does look the bort that can win a big handloop but he might just want a stiffer six, or even seven furlongs.

2.35 SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS BLUE RIBAND TRIAL C4 added 3YO 1m 4f 10yds

HYPERION 2.10 Grate British 2.40 Step On Eyre 3.15 Annuarinan 3.45 Grecian Lank 4.20 Intermagic 4.50

GO(NG: Hurdles - Soft; Chases - Good to Soft (Soft in places) GOING: Hurdes - Sort; Crease - Good to Stati (Soft in passes)

— Right-hand (suich, unclusing circuit Run-in of 140yd.

— Course is on AS south east of town ADMISSION: Caub 512 (OAPs 512); Tistiersals St (OAPs 515); Course IS, CAR PARK: Free.

— LEADING: TRAINGERS WITH RUNNERS: IL Nicholson 30-72

HILTSI, K Balley 12-55 (248%), T Forster TI-S1 (158%), J Gifford on the Resident State of Carbon 20-72.

(4.7%), N. Deanty D-63 (12.9%) © LEADING JOCKEYS: A Magains 24-68 (35.3%), N. Williamson 14-69 (20.3%), M. A. Fizgenski 13-68 (31.%), A. P. McCoy (2-60 (20%), © FAYOURITES: 191-487 (38.2%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Congar Run (240), Ubu Vai (3.45), Mr. Fla-

2.10 SYLVIA MARSHALL NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 added 2m

HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 added 2m

1 50021 GRATE BRITISH (9) J Alen 6 11 7 Gary Lyons
2 OPEIPE LOVELARK (14) R Brotherton 9 11 2 M Setflittes (7)
3 DELETS SPUR (20) D Gerighty 5 10 G Supple (9)
4 DUS30 INCNYDONEY BOY (55) Mas Z Davson 9 11 0 A Irvine (7)
5 495429 WEZSH SPINNER (112) Ms J Mchie 7 10 G Supple (9)
6 60045 WESTCOAST (4) M Eac 7 10 G C Llevertyn B
7 D4-PP0 BEL-DE-MOOR (16) D Winds 6 10 8 B Setany
8 DG CANDYS DELETT (9) J Norton 5 108 D Bytte
9 DG WOODY SCLID (9) J Pickering 8 10 G A Domling (7)
10 463P CHIEF PREMATOR (35) D Willems 4 10 8 A Domling (7)
11 463P CHIEF PREMATOR (35) D Willems 4 10 8 A Domling (7)
12 Horizot 2-1 Grate British, 7-2 Welch Spinous, 5-1 Chief Predetor, 6-1 Lovelark, 8-1 Inchytloney Boy, Westcoast, 20-1 Bel-de-Moor, 33-1 others

2.40 TOWCESTER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 6f

Principle Music 5.20 Southerndown

Towcester

CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 1m 2f 18yds (CL

FORM FLYER

Achilities might not have achieved a great deal in wirting at Doncaster, because runnerup Spring Anchor was turned over when bidds on at Folkestine next time. Achilies do
win with planty in hand, however, and consistent as he is, will surely make his presence
let in it is tougher contest. The fact that Achilies has already run and works, a plus, but
HES GLOW-WORMS and St Heleinstelled won liter time out at two and represently years
that have had several winners this year. The Fly developed into a classy three year-out
after winning numeries and, while The Glow-Worm will do well to emulate him. The code
the sort to go on to better things after beating 27 others in a Newmarker runnery ask Cotober. St Heleinsteld also ended his first season at Newmarker, finishing that to stablemater trigger Heppy in the Listed Zettland Stables. St Heleinsteld is a half-brone to Stowardy
a top class three-year-ool for Godofforh last season, and the chances are we haven't seen
the best of him yet. Bashing Chief has plenty of stamma and that could come in himsy
provided he acts on the surface.

= 12 declared - ligh On Life, State Fait, 8-1 Mersey Beat, 9-1 Artic Courier, Assured Gamble, 12-1 Rebel Count, 16-1 Temptress, 20-1 Tellion 1997 Pance Krisky 4 9 2 D Numbern 33-1 (L) Oct) claum (8) 19 ran FORM PLYER

With Winter Garden given too confident a nee, C YRIAN was lucky to beat that horse at Newbury and the hard race seemed to leave its mark as he did no good in handcaps afterwards, SM, that Newbury win was on soil ground like today's and Cyrian could well be the sort to do better this season after being gelded. This track can suit a front-unner such as Supreme Sound, sure to have benefited from his Leicester run petrind Proty-clarified and the strain and the program of the pr

such as Supreme Sound, sure to have benefited from his Leicester run patend Protocol atthough with a bit to prove when it comes to staying this trip and acting on this ground.
High On Life, a instraining sont for Alec Stewart and set a mader, ringht lust be the sort
to benefit from a change of scenery. Mersey Beat's third of 16 behind Memorze and
Maylene at Hewmarker best summer stows he can produce useful form on good ground,
but Walkeel, the other that has been in action over hundles recently, has decent Flot form
on the going and had Artic Courier behind when a half-length second to Grief over the
12 furloogs lest August. Artic Courier failed to win last year but the visor might help files
been blinkered in the past) and he canned 9st 12th when third of 19, beaten about a length
and a half behind Prince Kinsky in last year's race. Not often this look as competitive as
the 15-runner handicap in which Artic Courier finished third to Dance So Suite over course
and distance last September.

9 POIS-P BUBBLES GALORE (25) T D Mccarthy 7 11 2 ... T J Morphy 4 SPP COLIGAR RUN (16) L Walts 7 11 2 ... P Hide B 5 S-PPO2 FASHION MAKER (41) Mrs I Mc10-8 11 2 ... L Harvey 6 PSI-DP GACIAL KING (112) K Behop 6 11 2 ... R Greene 7 646P/P LIGHTOAK LAD (57) A Green 6 12 ... Mrs 1 R Godde 8 POPPP SHARP PENN (41) I Williams 9 11 2 ... V Stattory 9 1F-50 SILVER STANDARD (167) (D) T Forster 8 11 2 ... S Wymae 10 22P33 STEP ON EYRE (71) T Forster 8 11 2 ... S Juhason 11 000 LADY CLARINA (48) S Brotishow 8 10 11 ... R Johnson 12 61-003 RING FOR ROSSE (46) 7 Forster 7 10 11 ... R Thomson 12 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Step On Eyra, 4-1 Reytine Star, Silver Standard, 6-1 Ballydoegen, Fashlon Maker, 6-1 Ring For Roste, 25-1 Glaciel King, Ledy Clyrine, 33-1 others

3.15 FLORE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 5f

350645 PORLOCK CASTLE (8) P Richards 17 3 B Historica (3)
350645 PORLOCK CASTLE (8) P Richards 17 3 B Fention
44P00 (SNGSDOWN TRIX (82) R Smith 4 T 2 Goldstein (5)
50-P0U BELATUS (63) MS IMC66 6 T 1 5 Curram B
-00045 OXBRIDGE LADY (28) N Twiston-Daves 7 TO T1

BETTING: 6-1 April Seventh, Sharlakanndi, 7-1 Lyphard's Fabita, Ann-marinan, 8-1 Portock Castle, Orbridge Lady, Spiral Flyer, 16-1 others

2.50 SCOTTISH MEMORIES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 58,000 2m 4f 110yds

3.45 LAND ROVER CHAMPIONSHIP 5 6F-P-0 EASTERN PLEASURE (47) (C) 15 mmerson 11 12 Hunters Chase (Class H) £6.000 added 3m 1f

BOOGEO STILL TO
First CAVALERO (19) H Marriers 9 to 7, Mr A Charles-Jones (7)
6152 CELTIC TOWN (11) P Morris 10 to 4 - Mr C J B Bartow (7)
111-11 HABARI (26) I Emmerson 9 to 4 - Mr S Durack (3)
P 2th SORREL HELL (11) Mr C Esperant (12 4 - Mr L Jaffred (7)
42L03 UBU VAL (FR) (39) W Bernet 12 to 4 - Mr C Stocklon (7)
42L03 UBU VAL (FR) (39) W Bernet 12 to 4 - Mr C Stocklon (7)
42L03 UBU VAL (FR) (11) LS C Bisington (12 4 - Mr C Stocklon (7)
42L03 UBU VAL (FR) (13) W Bernet 12 to 4 - Mr C Stocklon (7)
42L03 UBU VAL (FR) (13) L Gry to 11 5 - Mr G Strocklon (7)
42L03 UBU VAL (FR) (13) L Gry to 11 5 - Mr G Strocklon (7)
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42L03 UBU VAL (15) L GRY to 11 5 - Mr G Strocklon (7)

- 6 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Cavelero, 7-2 Sorrel Mill, 4-1 Hager, 5-1 Utou Vel, 8-1 Gre-cian Lark, 12-1 Celtic Town, 16-1 Whatby, 25-1 Morchard Milly.

4.20 NOBOTTLE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) 52,400 added 2m

- 10 declared - 46nimum weight: 10st. The another segments: Samply 8st 17th, Rosehall 9st 92t, Sir Pageon 9st 8th, Postavo det 12th, BETTING: 7-2 Great Stuff, 9-2 Herntionne Glan, 5-1 Fair And Fancy, Alnet Solt II, 6-1 Intermegic, 8-1 Dramatist, 14-1 Sir Pageani, 16-1 others

8 005000 BOSCO'S TOUCH (178) M Salement 7 10 11 ... C Liewellyn
8 005000 BOSCO'S TOUCH (178) M Salement 7 10 11 ... T Dissourities
10 6003 ANMARDMAN (46) T Casey 8 10 11 ... T J Murphy
11 02390 SPIRAL FLYER (138) M Usher 5 10 11 ... D Byrne
12 REPORT PENNYAHE (14) S Brootstew 7 10 8 ... X Alzpura (3)
13 45608 PENNYAHE (14) S Brootstew 7 10 8 ... X Alzpura (3)
14 450-85 RISH DELIGHT (22) R Carte 6 10 4 ... I Supple (6)
15 04065 WILLERFOSS (153) J Norton 8 10 4 ... R Thornton
16 0506 CALLIDER (53) A Carte 10 10 ... A Scholar (7)
17 SUP300 CUMBERLAND YOUTH (18) Miss C Carce 7 10 0 D Leahy B
18 0000 RHYTHM AND BOOZE (32) J Tuck 8 10 0 ... S Machinet
16 declared - Macman weight. That Two transferances. Cumberland Sci 10kb, Rhythm And Score 98 (90)
18 ETTING: 61 April Seventh, Sharlakannofi. 7-1 Liechant's Fabin. Anno-4.50 HARTWELL LAND ROVER HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 2m 110yds

5.20 TOWCESTER OPEN NH FLAT RACE RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added PARCE (CICASS 7) £ 1,300 added:

RICKINGHTSBRIDGE LAD (6) Mas V Wilsons 6 1 n n R Johnson
PU BORDER LIGHT (9) H Monners 5 11 4. A Dowling 1T1
BRAVE KING G KECCUT 5 11 4. W Marsson
CARRINGTON HOUSE Y Baley 5 11 4. All TR Waldey (3)
G GLACAL RIVER (60) D Caro 5 11 4. All TR Waldey (3)
G STONE'S THROW (25) 5 Brookshow 5 11 4. A Maguire
D WISHPLI, VENTURE (63) J King 6 n 4. M Richards
O WRIGLEY'S (28) A Carrol 5 11 4. O Bradley
2 YOUNG THRUSTER (46) N Treston-Daves 5 11 4. C Lensebyn

Perth

HYPERION

2.20 Ooh Ah Cardona 2.50 Corston Joker 3.20 Nordance Prince 3.50 GET REAL (nap) 4.25 Glenugle 4.55 Cottstown Boy 5.25 Arc Of The Diver

4.55 Cottstown Boy 5.25 Arc Of This Diver

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places)

• Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.

• Right-hand course with sharp turns. Run-in 280yd.

• Course is in Scorie Paleos Park, 4m N of town on Ass. Parth station (service from Dundee) 4m. ADMISSION: Mambers 214; Paddock 03 (CAPs. Classified 3 under 195 51); Course 52. CAR PARK: C5 for pictic area, including meastrum of 4 adults, rest free.

• LEADING THARMERS WITH RUNNIERS: Mrs M. Revelley 21-57 (35.9%). M. Hammond 20-94 (21.5%), G. Richards 19-80 (23.8%). P. Montistor 18-90 (22.5%).

• LEADING JOCKEYS: P. Niven 23-74 (31.9), A. Dobbin 19-78 (34.9%).

• FAVOURTIES: 144-351 (41%).

**SLINKERED FIRST Thiss: Parsons Green Boy (2.20).

LONG JISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Asbreel Boy (3.50) & Born To Please (4.55) have been sent 449 miles.

2.20 MURRAYSHALL HOTEL MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110vds 20 OOH AH CARTONA (51) (BF) M Heremond 7 to 7

120P) PARSONS GREEN SCY (28) W Kemp 6 to 7

120P) PARSONS GREEN SCY (28) W Kemp 6 to 7

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120P) PARSONS GREEN SCY (28) W Kemp 6 to 7

120P) PARSONS GREEN SCY (28) W Kemp 6 to 7

120P) PARSONS GREEN

Misumum weight: 10st. True handbap weights: Le Denstan Set 11th. BET (1146: 3-1 Ballytine, 7-2 Centen oldes, 4-1 Woodbridge, 5-1 Brian's Delight, 6-1 Partiends Flyer, 10-1 Real Tonic, Whee Advice, 20-1 others 3.20 TULLIS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,500 2m 110yds 2100 NORDANCE PRINCE (30) (D) Miss Y Williams 7 11 10 -----

2 THE ROUNDSILLS (28) W. W. Mareaux 4 2) 9 O Gallegher - 10 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Nordence Prince, 7-2 Country Orchid, 5-1 The Roundellis, 7-1 Rent, 6-1 Jone Holley, Feel A Line, 12-1 Mutasard, Top Ace, 33-1 Oth-

3.50 ERNST & YOUNG NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 2m 4f 110yds 1 F33422 ASHWELL BOY (20) (D) Priches F 11 11 ... R Dummody
1 INFO? BLAIR CASTLE (18) (D) Mes i, Passet 7 11 11 ... A Thomson
3 54-711 GET REAL (14) In Herderson 7 11 11 ... M A Fizgerald
4 1-471U STANS YOUR MAN (4) (D) Mes J Goodstellew 8 11 7 ... Mes STANS YOUR MAN (4) (D) Mes J Goodstellew 8 11 7 ... Mes Misself (18) (D) Harping 5 13 ... P. Carberry
6 4-921 Wilsh Wild DCARD (78) (D) H. Jehrson 10 11 3 E Calleghan
6 declared BETTING: 7-4 Ashwell Boy, 2-1 Get Real, 5-1 Dr Bones, 6-1 Blair Castle,
Irish Wildowrd, 12-1 Stan's Your Man.

4.25 BALLATHIE HOUSE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 2m 110yds DOTH GLENUGIE (2) (D) G M Moon 7 T 2 (Best...... M Henrity (7)

5004LD TELLAYTMATCH (B) (CD) J Cricte 6 T 9 5 Taylor (3)

24FED EDEN DANCER (64) (CD) J M JERNSON 6 T 6 ... P Carberry

4CD COUNT TONY (63) (D) M HERROYCH 4 T 5 R Gentity

13 TERDAD (164) (CD) (E) INST M Review 5 T 10 P Niven

FODO KING OF THEVES (14) (D) C March 6 T0 T3 ... II Gallogher

33CM COMMON SOURC (F) (E) 4 Section 7 T0 C A Thomson

BETTSNG: 3-1 Terdad, 7-2 Glensple, Court Tors, 4-1 King Of Thieves, 12-2 Countion Speind, 10-1 Eden Dencer, 25-1 Teejey'n' shirit.

4.55 S KAY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 3m 110yds NAMES STAN (22) (D) (BF) L'Lurgo 7 m 10 Libr B Gibson (7) 2023F GLOBAL LEGEND (42) 1 H Jornson 8 m 1 Libr L Terople (7)

JOD PHAR CLOSER (F13) W Namo 5 to 0 Mile P Robert (5) 3P2PF FLOWER OF DUNBLANE (23) (0) Mrs 0 Thomson 7 to 0 = 10 declared - Mr (1 Spain (7) - 10 declared Minimum weight, 10st, True handicap sengths: Blooming Spring Bot 13th, Phar Closer 8s 9th, Rower of Durables 8d 3th 65TTING: 3-2 Cottstown Boy, 3-1 Mike Stan, 5-1 Commander Gien, 6-1 Boy, 3-1 Global Legend, Hand Of Straw, 14-1 Huso, 25-1 Oth-ans.

5.25 MURRAYSHALL HOTEL MAIDEN HOLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds ARC OF THE DIVER (F520) Mass V Williams 3 ft 7

P23P32 CATHERINE'S CHOICE (11] J Jefferson 5 Ti 7 L Wyer P03P30 CHIEF CHIPPIE (26) W Aemp 5 Ti 7 S Teylor (3) 00683 DAMZA (40) N Mason 6 Ti 7 Guest PLAMING SUNTINEE R McDorad 7 Ti 7 R Supple 00:3F5 GOLF LAND (5) W Reed 6 Ti 7 7 Reed EFTING: 9-4 Catherine's Chokes, 7-2 Young Steven, 4-1 Domes, 5-1 Arc Of The Diver, 12-1 Clust Chippie, 16-1 Gelf Land, The Other Hall, 20-1

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Section 1

And the same

Ince driven by passion born of deprivation



The style of England's anchor against Portugal tonight was forged in childhood. Glenn Moore met him

championships and become the first black player to captain England, but he has still has not fulfilled all the umbitions he had as have England been heaten. a parentless schoolboy in Hford.

While Ince justifiably wants to be recognised as more than just a hard-tackling, hard-running midfielder he accepts that it is his deep-scated passion for the game which marks him out and which drives him on in World Cup year.

"It comes from within," he Abbey yesterday, "I've been without my parents since I was 10 and without my father since I was two so I've always had to depend on myself. I've always had that desire to do well. I didn't do well at school so I wanted to be a foothaller. Lappreciate being a footballer because without football l wouldn't have anything else.

"These World Cup finals are very important to me," added the 30-year-old, "In 1994 we didn't qualify and I was very disarpointed. Obviously the older you get you think it might not happen so it was important for me to qualify. It might be my last World Cup though you never know. Realistically, looking at people like David Beckham coming through, this is going to be my last World Cup. It is the pinnacle of the sport and it is important to play in a World Cup and do well.

Ince is confident England will do well in France and he only has to glance around him as he lines up for England against Portugal at Wembley tonight to know why. He will look at Alan Shearer ahead of him, turn and sec at Tony Adams and David Seaman hehind him, and feel an inner confidence. The backbone which took England to the season. hrink of Euro 36 success will be it could not be more timely.

than us in the middle of the park. through the spine of the team." said Ince, "If you are strong in the centre you have a chance of winning the World Cup."

The quartet have only played

PAUL INCE has played for together once before under some of European football's Hoddle and nine times in all for greatest clubs, won titles and England, Only once, in their first union against the Netherlands in Rotterdam in late 1993 when they were all less experienced,

> the Euro Vo games and Ince is pleased that they are coming together again as the World Cup

Ince, who will he winning his 38th cap tonight, said of tonight's game: "Portugal are a good side and it's not an easy game to get said after training at Bisham a result in, but we've got a full squad back and playing at home we're expected to put on a good

We've still got to be upbeat. we've just had a couple of hiccups. We had a weakened side against Chile and got caught. while the Switzerland game was not the best performance hut there is no reason for the bad

For himself, he hopes the appreciation he has among his peers will be extended to a wider audience by the World Gunners have not lost a match Cup. "I'm not a dirty player." he said. "The new ruling on tackles from behind doesn't worry me at all as I'm hard but fair and in midfield you don't really find yourself in a situation where you tackle from behind.

"I like to be involved hut I don't think I'm physical, I've got more to offer, I score goals, I set up goals. There is more to my game than tackling but because I have a desire to win all the time people just look at that."

"Not many teams are better achieved," he said, "No disre-

The four did play the hulk of huild-up approaches a crucial

performance.

vibes I've been hearing."

One recalls his pass for Shearet's goal in Poland as an example of his qualities which, under Hoddle have been given freer expression in an England scene which provides a break from a disappointing end to Liverpool's

and Old Trafford what a good team we are but we've underspect to the teams involved but we lost at home to Barnsley. Leicester and Southampton. that is where we lost the championship. But we're not far



Paul Ince (left) shares a mood of contemplation with his England colleague Ian Wright at Bisham Abbey this week

Wright reveals rare grasp of striking dilemma

lan Wright has been synonymous with Arsenal for as long as anyone cares to remember, he does not possess a championship medal, baving arrived at Highhury the season after their last success in 1991. It is also a fact, if a lesser known one, that since and as a consequence now stand on the hrink of a second Double.

club's record goalscorer an unpalatable truth, he for one is not prepared to helieve it. Indeed. the 34-year-old striker means to see off his young rivals and re-

IT IS a well known fact that while that he can play a purposeful part in the winning of that elusive championship medal, and also secure a place in England's World Cup squad. Not so long ago, a move to Benfica was seen as a fresh challenge for him. A transfer is now no longer an option, not while the club stand on the threshold of such exciting times. "I'll stay for the fight," he declared this week.

This is not wild optimism on If all of this serves to tell the the part of Wright, but a genuine belief in his own ability and a determination not to accept what many people may see as the inevitable march of time. In his absence, the young Frenchgain his place in the side before men Nicolas Anelka and if I can do that and the boss still

lan Wright is relaxed about his Arsenal and England prospects. Clive White reports

pure folly on the part of Arsène Wenger, the coach, to risk unsettling the side by recalling Wright. And to his credit, Wright fully appreciates that.

"If I was Christopher Wreb or Nicolas Anelka I'd be really gutted if the boss left me out and put someone else in and I personally wouldn't want that," he said. "I've never had a problem coming off the bench in respect of trying to prove my worth and wants to play Nicolas or Christo-

somed after a sticky start to the pher, that's his prerogative and point where it would be seen as he won't get a problem from me with that. We've spoken about

it at length." If only all players were as understanding, most managers must think. Wright has learned to accept, no doubt with a little help from Wenger, that he is no longer an automatic choice at theclub. During the last three months of inactivity, he has had to show considerable patience too, not a virtue, as he admits, with which he is readily associ-

while the team are genuine chal. . try is a return to the Arsenal side lengers for the Premiership." His injuries, a hamstring, a torn cartilage and a groin, were

not, he maintains, the result of advancing years but just "absolute bad luck". Clearly his sessions with Glenn Hoddie's faith healer, Eileen Drewery, have had a beneficial effect on his powers of positive thought. "I'm very pleased with the fitness at the moment. I look fantastic - my wife can wonch for that," he said. "I'll be ready to play this weekend but the boss will probably want to see me in ated. "It's been hard because I've a full week's training and flying."

been in in my life before, i.e. be- probably hope for with regards ing injured as long as I have been . his dual aims for club and counonce the championship has been secured, which, judging by United's recent indifferent form, could be with a couple of games to go. He could then prove to Hoddle his match fitness prior to England's last three warm-up matches before the finals.

Paul Ince for one is rooting for him: "I hope ne goes," said the Liverpool midfielder. "I remember when he was left out in '92 for the European Championships after he had finished the hart by that, it's not just what he brings to the spirit of the side,

Brown sets Burley World Cup deadline

CRAIG BURLEY'S prospects the Celtic midfielder must board a transatlantic flight or accept that he will miss the finals.

On 20 May, the 22 players Brown's squad in France leave for the United States to play Americans and Colombia, Bur-

tonight's friendly against Finland at Easter Road because of sciatica, must use the interim peof sharing in Scotland's World riod to convince the Scotland arduous tournament of all.

The former Cheisea player's absence from what is effectively a final eliminator for the US who will comprise Craig and France follows his withdrawal from last month's home defeat by Denmark. Burley warm-up matches against the normally plays wing-back for Scotland, yet has impressed as

championship push.

Craig that we can't go to a World Cup with a doubt over than faith healing. "He has been having treatment in London and has now gone back to Celtic for some more, but he assures me he'll be OK."

Kevin Gallacher (throat infection) and Andy Goram (hamstring strain) added to Scotland's worries yesterday.

ley, having pulled out of playmaker during Celtic's Should the Blackborn striker fail Denmark's triumphant man-capital's first round-half into recover in time, Celtic's Si-"It has been pointed out to mon Donnelly is almost certain to start.

> heen outstanding. While he Hungarian goal, and are likewould settle for flopping against Finland and beating, or even holding, Brazil on 10 June, victory would clearly advantageous. for morale. "If we don't beat a team who haven't qualified,

doubts will be cast," he admitted.

striker Mixu Paatelainen. Their presence has not exactly encouraged a run on tick-The Finns, coached by ets, despite this being the

ly to include the Rangers pair

Anlti Niemi and Jonatan Jo-

Simo Valekari and the Wolves

ager from Euro 92, Richard ternational for six decades. Hi-Moller Nielsen, should provide bernian last hosted such a stern if eminently beatable op- fixture 110 years ago, when a Scotland's record infriendlies position. They were within Scotland XI skippered by one Cup summer are up in the air manager that he could with- anyone. said Brown, who tends today, exactly four weeks before stand the rigours of the most to trust in physiotherapy rather their competitive results have hefore being thwarted by a 5-1 at the Old Easter Road site. might be asking too much, hut a side again lead by Colin hansson, plus Motherwell's Hendry will be expected to win with style.

SCOTLAND (probable; S-5-2); Leighton (Aberdeen); Calclerwood (Tottersien); Hendry (Blackburn); McNamarra, Lambert (both Cellic); McKintey (Blackburn);

McCarthy prepares for a tough night

By Guy Hodgson

ENGLAND versus Germany or Scotland would shade it in terms of football's historical significance but a rivalry bubbles quite healthily hetween the old country and Argentina. "Hand of God", "Animals", matches hetween them create more status. soundhites than Tony Blair's speech writer.

It is by no means beyond the bounds of probability that the two will meet again in the second round of the World Cup France friendlies in recent this summer - indeed it is a strong possibility ~ so tonight's friendly hetween the South Americans and the Republic of Ireland here will be watched tember: Argentina's needs are with more than passing interest hy Glenn Hoddle.

Whether the England coach

Daniel Passarella. Argentina's coach, has them in spades after a lamentable defeat by Israel in Jerusalem last Wednesday. The Wailing Wall was wholly apposite as the press in Buenos Aires laid into a man whose lifting of the 1978 World Cup elevated him to near God-like

Nice players, shame ahout the team was the gist, so tonight's friendly should be somewhat spicier than some of the hland fare laid out in premonths, Ireland need to find form in time for their European Championship qualifiers, which hegin against Croatia in Sepmore urgent.

A settled side would help, al-

him for nine months.

Mick McCarthy, put it.

though Passarella is hiding his will learn anything is less certain. best 11 splendidly. Fernando

If Hoddle has his critics then Redondo, an extravagantly gifted playmaker with Real Madrid, has not made it to Duhlin partly hecause his long hairstyle did not appeal to the coach who is rumoured also to frown upon ear-rings. Gahriel Batistuta, a prolific scorer with his Italian club, Fiorentina, and his country, also fell out with

> Passarella's hard-line line-up flopped against Israel and, as they play Brazil in Rio next Wednesday, they could conceivably arrive at the World Cup with spirits lower than their boot laces unless they find some form at Lansdowne Road tonight. "They'll have the full metal jacket on for our game," was how the Irish manager.

> McCarthy's own emphasis on the European Championships is underlined by his in-

clusion of Wolves' 17-year-old Robbie Keane as a striker largely because the first choice. David Connolly, will be suspended for the first two qualifying games.

He will also give West Bromwich Albion's Kevin Kilhane a third cap as winger cum support striker in an attempt to find a cutting edge tonight. "If we've had a problem it's been scoring goals at home." Me-Carthy said. "I'm hoping Kevin can move forward and we take the game to them."

REPUBLIC OF IRELANT (probable): Given (Newcastie); Irvin (Manchester United) Breen (Covertry) Babb (Liverpool) Staumton (Aston Vila), Kelly (Leeds), Caraley (Derby), Kinselfa (Charlion), Kil-bane (Wolves), Cunn (Sunderland), Keane (Wolves).

ARGENTINA (3-5-2): Burgos (Fiver Plate); Ayala (Napol, it), Sensini (Parme, It), Vines (Lugano, Swith: Almeyda (Lazio, It), Simeone (Internazionale, It), Veroni (Sam-polona, It), Ontega (Valencia, Sp.), Berli (Pa-er Plate), Batilatute (Fiorentina, It), Lopez (Valencia, Sp.).

Murdock may make debut

THE uncapped Colin Murdock or Darren Patterson, whose last cap was two years ago, will partner Steve Morrow at the heart of the Northern Ireland defence in today's friendly against Switzerland.

The manager, Lawrie McMenemy, who claims he will not make many changes to the side which beat Slovakia 1-0 last month, has confidence in both players. "I saw them play well in the B international against the Republic and I'm very relaxed about the situation," he said.

THE return of the Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel to international duty today will provide a welcome fillip for

the club's manager, Alex Ferguson, as his side falter in their challenge for the championship. Schmeichel's recovery, however, was tempered by the news that United's Norwegian in-

needs surgery on his right knee for an injury suffered in United's game against Liverpool on Schmeichel was substituted during Saturday's 1-1 draw with Newcastle at Old Trafford but is now hopeful of playing for Denmark in their World Cup

teroational Ronny Johnsen

warm-up against Norway today. Schmeichel said: "It is me alone who makes the decision. h is important for me to play this match and I am working day and night to be ready. I can already feel that I am getting better." The 34-year-old Dane suffered a thigh injury on Saturday and was expected to miss the reigning champions' last

Danish return for Schmeichel

three Premiership matches. The latest development will come as welcome news to Ferguson, with United still hoping that the League leaders, Arsenal, will slip up in the litle race. Johnsen, meanwhile, will

doctors diagnosed the cartilage damage during training. "The pain was so intense that it was not realistic for him to play," the team doctor. Trygve Kase.

Johnsen bopes Manchester United will approve an operation later this week and that he will be fully recovered in two to four weeks, missing United's three final games of the season. Johnsen should recover in .

time to join Norway in France. Kase said: "If the operation is carried out within a week or two, he should be ready in time for the World Cup."

Arsenal's young striker Nicolas Anelka is included among France's four strikers for today's friendly against Sweden in Stockholm. Also hoping to impress is his Highbury team-mate Patrick Vieira miss tonight's friendly after and the West Ham goalkeeper Bernard Lama, who has displaced Fabien Barthez as understudy to Auxerre's Lionel Charbonnier.

The Nigeria coach, Bora Mi-Intinovic, is expected to travel from Germany to Gresty Road on Saturday to check on the form of the Crewe Alexandra goalkeeper, Ademola Bankole. Tonight the Olympic gold medal winners take on the European champions in Cologne.

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The referee who sent himself off

Football

AN AMATEUR referee who nunched a player and then howed himself the red card has een banned from the game for

Melvin Sylvester, a 42-yearreeing a recreational match between the Southampton Arms and Hurstbourne Tarant British Legion in the Andover and District Sunday

Sylvester claimed he lost his emper when one of the playrs, 27-year-old Richard Curd, pushed him. "I was sorely prooked. I punched him several times after he had pushed me from behind. He then swore. I couldn't take any more. I blew ny top," he said.

Sylvester said he showed imself the red card, sending imself off. He was replaced by spectator for the rest of the

The Hampshire Football Association imposed a six-week nan and a £20 fine on Sylvester. who has refereed more than 40 ames in the past two years.

lemma

or their priorities all wrong. periments to determine certain out the circumstances have not

been shown. They we taken the ide of the player." Curd, who denied provoking

the incident, was charged with insulting or abusive behaviour: His case will be heard shortly by the local football authorities.

Leading Italian referees are asking for a helping hand, or at old school caretaker, was ref-ereeing a recreational match asked the world game's governing body, Fifa, if they can experiment with an electronic "eye" in the goalposts for Serie A matches.

The move follows a controversy at the weekend when a referee failed to see the ball cross Juventus' goal-line and ruled out what should have been an Empoli equaliser.

Italian FA's president, Luciano Nizzola, plans to invite a number of electronics companies to offer a solution to the goal-line problem. But any experiment in matches would require Fifa approval

I've been thinking about this for a few weeks," Nizzola said. We need to find a mechanism capable of showing unequivocally whether the ball has crossed the line.

"Obviously, we need Fifa's "I'm furious," he said. "The agreement, but our federation lisciplinary committee have could put itself forward for ex-They've convicted me of assault goals' even from next season, for

Sunderland ticket offer to Newcastle

SUNDERLAND have extended the hand of friendship across ne of football's fiercest club castle United fans, not to bond ivalries by offering Newcastle holders or corporate supporters". · -heir full allocation of tickets for he FA Cup final.

The gesture, making extra ickets available for Magpies ans to cheer on their team in his year's Wembley final against hope that these tickets do find Arsenal, is designed to pro- their way to genuine supporters. groundstroke play by his com-

nan away supporters from der-. of police advice. Sunderland's porters are given priority, and :hairman, Bob Murray, said: "I vas as disappointed as anyone ast season with the situation be-

ween the two clubs but want to nelp build bridges for the future. "I would like the Newcastle · Juited board to respond posiively to our offer because they ilso have an important role to

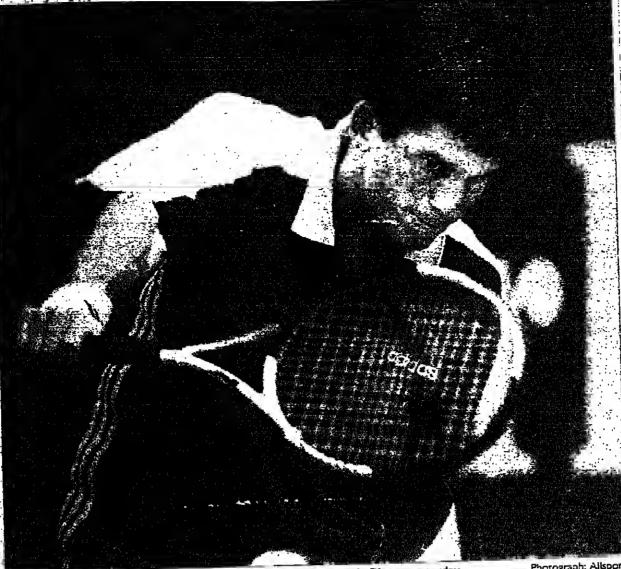
to "traditional and loyal New-A spokesman for Newcastle's: Independent, Supporters Association, John Regan, said: "Obviously we welcome the gesture from Sunderland and

they would like their tickets to go

note relations between the two - - We have some sympathy patriot Andre Agassi in the north-east clubs and their fans. - with Newcastle United because first round of the Monte Carlo Both clubs were forced to there are so many fans that some Open here. by fixtures last season because it is vital that the most loyal supwe want the club to give a guar-

> Sunderland, meanwhile, have increased the capacity of their Stadium of Light home to more than 41,000 for their final home game of the season against Stoke City on Saturday.

An extra 700 seats have been play in improving relations in the installed, and subject to safety approval, tickets will go on sale Sunderland have stressed that on Friday.



Tim Henman hits a backhand during his straight-sets defeat to Galo Blanco yesterday

him from an aggressive baseline

was as comprehensive in its way

The old king of clay and former

world No I was up at to

counter the consistency of

Moya's anticipation, movement

and shot-making, "Maybe I'm trying too hard," said Muster,

whose supremacy on clay has

been in decline since he lost his

opening match here last year,

Photograph; Allsport

Henman draws a Blanco

Tennis

By John Roberts in Monte Carlo

IT IS not often that Tim Henman can be mentioned in the same breath as Thomas Muster as a clay court player, but both Open last year. were made to appear novices on the slow red surface yesterday by Spanish opponents who went about their business confident of selecting the right shot at the precise moment.

Todd Martin was subjected to similar embarrassment. Crowned as a champion on clay in Barcelona on Sunday, the American was given a lesson in

prointed But Agassi's win, 6-2, 6-1, was a homes for the spectators, who can look forward to a renewal of the rivalry between the Las Vegan and Pete Sampras. Samantee that this will be the case." pras leads their head-to-head 12-9. They last played on clay in the quarter-finals of the 1992 French Open, Agassi winning in straight sets.

Henman, although ranked No 15 in the world, is a novice on clay, and that was painfully apparent as the 23-year-old from Oxford struggled to com-

pete against Galo Blanco, a against the Frenchman Fahrice Santoro, when seeded No 2. product of the Barcelona stable Muster, 30, has provided a whose comparative lack of

beacon for Austrian tennis, albeight (5ft 8in) does not deter though his play is to grass what Henman's is to clay, Henman's style. A qualifier here, his game was good enough to take him to favoured outdoor surface is the quarter-finals of the French common among British players. Buster Mottram, in 1981, was Blanco's victory, 6-2, 6-4, the last Brit to win a match here (against the Swiss Heinz Gunas Carlos Moya's dismanding of thardt, now Steffi Graf's coach). Muster, 6-0, 6-3 in 59 minutes.

Henman made his debut in Monte Carlo yesterday backed by a clay-court record amounting to a Davis Cup win in Kiev and one victory on the mainstream ATP Tour, against a Spaniard. Roberto Carretero, who was ranked No 334 in the world when he retired hurt in

Emerson on show in Eastbourne

ROY EMERSON, twice a Wimbledon singles champion, heads a stellar list of former Grand Slam winners in a special mixed doubles event to be staged at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, on 15 June.

Emerson, the only man to win singles and doubles tilles in all four Grand Slams, 12 in singles and 16 in doubles, joins the American Sherwood Stewart, South African Cliff Drysdale,

and Britain's John Lloyd in

this round-rohin event. Virginia Wade, the 1977 Wimbledon champion, American Zina Garrison, Australian Liz Smylie and Russian Olga Morozova, now coaching in Britain, will also he involved.

The event will a showpiece opener for the Direct Line Insurance Women's grass court championships at Eastbourne from 16 to 20 June.

the first round of the Italian Ooen last year with Henman leading, 4-6, 7-5, 2-0.

Blanco's win yesterday would have been achieved with less fuss had his nerves not tightened difficulty with Europe's when he was serving for the match at 5-2 in the second set. Henman, given a sign of hope, managed to break for the only time in the match. The British No 2 was unable to sustain his effort beyond an extraordinary penultimate game in which he double-faulted four times, hit ovo aces and saved five match points. Blanco then served out the match, winning with a typical backhand crosscourt pass on his seventh match point.

"I've got learn to develop my ame to be able to play on clay. Henman said. It s a huge challenge for mc. It's never going to he easy. Twe got to serve consistently and be parient enough to create opportunities to move forward on my opponent's serve. I'm not going to beat a player like Blanco at his own game."

Henman intends to spend the remainder of the week practising here before competing in next week's tournament in Munich, where the ATP Tour's experiment with coaches on the court will afford David Felgate an opportunity to have a word with his protege between sets.

Bond makes an early exit

Snooker ----

ا وكرا من الأصل

NIGEL BOND began his 1997-98 season in style by winning the Scottish Masters title last October in Motherwell But his campaign at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, ended limply yesterday as he lost 10-5 to left-hander Mark King at the Embassy World Championship.

Bond, the world No 8, lost eight frames out of a possible nine after establishing a 4-2 advantage in Monday night's opening session. "There was just nothing there," admitted the 1995 Sheffield runner-up to Stephen Hendry. "As the season has gener on

my confidence has drained away, in the last few tournaments I've just been going through the motions.

"To be honest I'll be glad to put the cue away because. I've done my head in the way I've

played recently." Bond becomes the second top 16 player to miss out on a second-round place this year. leaving King to meet Alain Rebidoux or Matthew Stevens for place in the quarter-finals.

King is now likely to gain promotion to the clife 16 next

season, replacing Thailand's James Wattene, who was beaten 10-9 by Fergal O'Brien on Sunday.

To be bonesi fim noi even thinking about the rankings, said the 24-year-old Romford player. I was under so much pressure out there it was unbelievable. Normally I'm good at coping with it but today I found is hard to deal with." King appeared to have

missed his chance of an easy win when just a handful of balls from victory. Clearing up, he missed the yellow off its own spot. Fortunately for him, though, Bond was playing too hadly to take advantage - and King gratefully ported a frame-hall blue. Earlier, John Parrott had no

problem adding four frames to his overnight lead of n-3 against the Leeds qualifier Peter Lines. The 1991 world champion believes it will take a good player to stop him bridging a sevenyear gap if he repeats his firstround standard.

Another top seed in trouble is the world No 15 Darren Morgan. The Welshman will resume this morning 5-4 down against the Ulsterman Jason Prince, one of eight players making debuts at Sheffield this year.

Conference scents southern success

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

THE long held, but never realised, dream of hecoming a truly national sport took a step closer to reality yesterday as the House of Commons hosted the launch of the Rughy League Conference.

The former Southern Conference, expanded from nine to 15 teams after a pilot season last ed events which must be shown year, now encompasses clubs from Chester to Crawley and Cheltenham to Ipswich - all outside the game's traditional boundaries. Several have already declared an interest in applying for membership of the Second Division of the Rugby League.

we will then replace them with other clubs coming through," the Conference's chairman. Lionel Hurst, said, "It will be a conveyor helt. It's going to go on and on until every sizeable town in the country has a rugby league team."

"I can see ii nappening

Many of the Conference clubs have struck up thriving partnerships with Super League teams and one. Worcester, has

changed its name to Worcester Saints hecause of the link with St Helens has been so good.

Fixtures start on 9 May, leading to a grand final in Cheltenham on 8 August. Sir Geoffrey Lafthouse, the

chairman of the Parliamentary Rugby League Group, who hosted the launch, is urging the Heritage Secretary. Chris Smith, to add the Challenge Cup final to the list of protecton terrestrial television. Negotiations are well underway for a new three-year contract when the current one with the BBC ends next year, but Sir Geoffrey described his campaign as "an insurance policy".

A battle is brewing between val bids from Cardiff and Swansea for a Super League franchise from next season.

Super League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay, has already described the Swansea application as the favourite. but a Cardiff consortium including the former Wigan chairman Jack Robinson and the former Oldham coach Peter Tunks - is arguing that its proposal is stronger.

Sporting Digest

Lomu produces sprint record

5 chmeiche tugby Union

THE All Blacks wing Jonah ... omu set a New Zealand rugby print record yesterday during Auckland Blues' fitness testing. Lomu recorded L6sec for the

0-metre sprint from a standing lart - the fastest since data colection began four years ago. The players were put through

management, the national fitness coordinator and the All Blacks panel were dissatisfied with their test results a fortnight ago.

the Blues were examined two days after their match against Queensland, when on average their times were lower than the

was trading blows in the ring.

All New Zealand Super-12 squads receive regular testing and

he routines after the Blues other squads in the competition.

Bugner burgled while in ring

IOE BUGNER'S joy at landing world heavyweight title fight -23 years after losing to Muhammad Ali was soured by the discovery that thieves had ansacked his home while he

Bugner, 48, earned a chance at the vacant World Boxing Federation title against James

"Bonecrusher" Smith by win-

World Boxing Council heavy-

weight title defence against

line of 29 May.

ning the Pan Asian championship on Monday, only to return home and find his house had been burgled. Lennox Lewis's mandatory

Balsetrau Allerican League: Boston 2 Claveland 0; Detroit 2 New York Yarkees 1; Toronto 5 Chca-oo While Sox 4 (12 Innings); Seatile 7 Minnesota Basketbali Croatia's Zeljko Mavrovic has been given a purse-offer dead-

Fencing

THREE-MATION TOURNAMENT (Shorjeh, UAE): India 181 (49.3 overs), New Zealand 193 for 8-49 overs) (C D McMillan 59), New Zealand won by Jour wickets.

WOMEN'S EPEE WORLD CUP (Luxembourg round: 1 C Bokel (Ger); 2 G Usher

(GB), 3= E Halis (Aur.); K Aznavouran (Rust. S I Dupittzer, 6 E Vybornova (both Ukr.); 7 J Jakanut, (Pol); 8 S Schain (Can.) Fontball

Preston yesterday announced their new 6,000-seat North Stand will be called the Bill Shankly Kop after their former player and legendary Liverpool manager. Shankly made 297 appearances for the Deepdale club from 1933 before beginning his managerial career at Cartisle in 1949.

The Oxford manager. Malcolin Shot-The Oxford manager, Malcolm Shotton, has signed a three-year contract with the First Oivision club.

With the First Offision Calo.

Byth Spartans, of the Unibond League Premier Division, have been deducted 10 points for fielding ineligible players. The club has also been disqualified from the Unibond League Swindon have signed the 21-year-old central defender Adam Willis on a free

transfer from Coventry.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: GM Vauchali Contenues: Northatch 2 Haiffa; 0 Dr Mariera.
League Bouthern Divisions: Weston-S-Mare 1
Beldook. 2: Warey 3 Cinderlord; 0 Northern

Lincester O Coventry 2, Liverbook 4 Notingham Fonest 1: Pressor 2 Transmer 4, Stoke 0 Derby 2, Second Division, Backgood 1 Rocholde 2, Surfiey 2, Cartisle 0, Smelfed June 4 Strewsbury 0. Third Division: Newcostie 1 Chesser 0, Bury Vindia Awar Insurance Combination First Division: boatch 2 Brigton 0, Portsmouth 0 Charleon 2, Curent Pan, Fan, Hanges 1 Southampion 2, Vection 1 West Ham 1, Lutino Wireledon postponest. Times FA Youth Cup semi-linal second leg: Petriborough 0 Backburn 1 (agg. 2-2). Smirnott Irish League Piet Division Bangor 4 Luriavaty 0 Tilermalipad Tournament (Teturan): Macadoma 2 (Heston 7, 45) Jamason 1 (Hest) per 69), Iran 0 Hungary 2 (Norson 16, Sep 58).

Rugby League Rugby League
Haffax Burs Sox are set to block any
move by Rotherham Rugby Union Club
to secure the services of British Lons
winger John Bentley beyond the end
of the month. Bentley, who is currently
on loan to Rotherham from Newcasile, is due to resume his Super League
career with the Blue Sox on 10 May
when Halitax go to Warrington.
Kelvin Skerrett is free to play in Halifax's Super League match against Kelvin Skerrett is free to play in Hali-fax's Super League maich against Cestletord at The Shay on Sunday. The former Wigan prop forward was placed on report for an alleged high tackle on Robbe McCommack during the Blue Soc's 40-6 defeat at Wigan last Sun-day but the Rugby Football League ex-ecutive ruled he has no case to answer after watching the incident on video. Skerrett's Halifax team-mate

missing Sunday's game. Ha will appear before the RFL disciplinary committee on Thursday after being sent off for a late tackle in the same match. **Rugby Union**

Rugby Union
Newport prop Sean Duggan is out of
Saturday's SWALEC Cup semi-final and
may never play rugby again. After playing the Royal Navy on March 31, Duggan was rushed to hospital with a
collapsed lung that caused a loss of
blood. Following eight days in hospital, he has been left with several broken ribs. "I will be 33 on May 9 and
have to make a decision on my luture,
Duggan said.

have to make a uccount of the page in the page in and Fig. which starts on 18 Mays; Backs; A Bullech (West of Scottanh & Eriksson (London Scottanh H Gilmour (Henot FP), O Hodge (Vascondant) Due London Scottanh K Logan Candon Scottanh K Logan (London Scottanh K Logan Scottanh K Logan Scottanh K Logan (London Scottanh K Logan Scottanh K Logan Scottanh K Logan (London Scottanh K Logan Scottanh K Logan (London Scottanh K Logan Scottanh K Logan (London Scottanh K Logan (Logan Logan Logan

Snooker

Speedway SECOND TEST (Exercer): England Under 21 59

raustr (Auth 6-0-6-): S Brug wengo (US) 6-11-6-7-5, A Agassa (US) 6-2 6-1, G Banco (Sp) for 1 6-4, F Santoro (Fr) for 4 Cemer Poine (Fr) for 5 Coccas (Sp) 6-2-3-(bit Woodbridge Vus) 6-07-5 f. Is of 1 J Reference (See S-7-7-5) WEIN'S (J A Agassa)

TODAY'S NUMBER

8

The countries from an expected 17 who turned up for the the fifth African Swimming Championships in Kenya. The sport is in crisis on the continent, with the exception of South Alrica, whose B team finished with 44 medals compared with 23 for runners-up Algeria.

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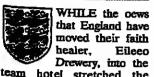
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England ready for leap of faith

By Glenn Moore Football Correspondent



team hotel stretched the credulity of many England supporters, it was nothing to the leap of faith Portuguese fans were asked to make at the beginning of the month.

Three weeks ago, they awoke to a Portuguese radio report that Iran had pulled out of the World Cup for security reasons and Portugal had been offered their place.

This cruellest of April Fools' Day jokes merely served to exacerbate the sense of failure felt by a team which is widely regarded as the best oot to qualify for the finals. How they have reacted to this failure will determine whether England have in or just hefore England the toughest of tests or lamest of World Cup warm-ups at Wembley tonight.

After a home defeat by Chile and a disappointing draw in Switzerland, there is an argument for England eojoying a morale-boosting hig victory, hut since that should come with the visit of Saudi Arabia next month, a decent work-out would be more useful.

Although Paul Gascoigne is unlikely to be fit, England will he close to full strength and Glenn Hoddle will learn most from seeing his team stretched. It is a view shared by Paul Ince, who said: "We could play easy teams and roll them over 5-0, but personally I would rather have a team that is a test."

Gascoigne, assuming he does not experience an overnight miracle - and Hod- time, with Teddy Sheringham, dle has not misled us about his ankle and groin injuries - will be one of several players who do not appear to have reaped any immediate beoefit from

No. 359 L Wednesday 22 April

ACROSS

this charity? (6)

corkscrew (6)

Christian associated with

Drunken pairs, opening

Liebfraumilch, find

10 Profit from complaint

11 Old comic peacock (5)

13 Climbs with balance (6)

15 Model philandered inside 1

16 Sheriff's men begin track- 2

one, with name silenced

ing with a warm drink (6) 3

ancient Greek city (6)

18 Hull supporters changing

21 Gradually introduced

horses (6)

12 Of course, oldest hus

breaks down! (9)

Mrs Drewery's arrival in the when he pulls on an England team hotel.

The most serious casualty is Jamie Redknapp, who was sent back to Liverpool yesterday with knee-ligament damage which will keep him out for the season and thus almost certainly roh him of a World Cup place.

"It is oot as bad as first feared hut it will still be a three to four-week joh in the sidelines," the England coach said. That is beyood the end of the seasoo and Hoddle added: "Let's hope he can get back earlier - some people do come back more quickly - but in terms of the World Cup be has got to come back before the end of the seasoo for sure."

This is a severe blow to both Hoddle and the player whose international career seems iinxed - Redknapp played just 40 minutes before heing taken off in Euro 96 and is regularly injured

On the very few times he and Gascoigne have played together they have looked a wellmatched partnership and Hoddle would have liked the chance to see if an Ince-Gascoigne-Redknapp midfield offered more than the present, more negative, Ince-Gascoigne-Batty combination.

With Paul Mersoo and Steve McManaman also in oeed of healing, Hoddle may now ask Paul Scholes to fill the creative void left by Gascoigne's absence. Another option is provided by David Beckham, but he will probably start wide before moving inside to give Ray Parlour a first cap on the right flank.

The rest of the side should be close to the ooe which will line up against Timisia in 55 days a chance'. Most people could although struggling for club form with Manchester United, alongside Shearer in attack. "Not many players feel as

much at home as Teddy does

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

22 Extravagant with C-note 7 Up-to-date news of city

trial (6)

Incidental remarks for a

Sunday, 15th of March

Languor of girl "with it",

A spring crowd? (6)

due to come out? (9)

18 Cruel type seen in the Tulsa district (6)

19 Tail of sand-piper varie-gated, like the water-

Exercise, wearing fewer

opeo for a releaser of

Egyptian church does oot

ouzel (6)

ciothes (6)

Bulbs lit up, possibly, on Sunday (6)

in Scandinavian money

perior situation in the pa-

quarters of apple (6)
25 Discernment of a copper 17

23 Advance theories of su-

24 Plant disease engulfs two

taking chaps on (6)

In manner of doctor,

Time out? (15)

river (5)

leaving note oearby? (6)

Flower poles io Scottish

Unpolitic form of exacti-

Monster from here de-

pers? (15)

shirt," Hoddle said. "He seems to thrive on playing at international level."

The Portuguese, nimblefooted passers and dribblers, are seen as the nearest equivalent to Romania, England's second World Cup opponents. Having cootroversially failed to qualify from Germany's group, they now have a oew manager, Humberto Coelho.

Although an outstanding defender in Benfica's golden era, he was a surprising choice because, having briefly coached Salgueiros and Braga in the mid-Eighties, he has since coocentrated on running football schools and working in the

For his first match he has lost the inspirational Fiorentina midfielder Rui Costa to a thigh injury, but can still include players from Barcelona and Juventus as well as from the usual Portuguese powerhouses such as Benfica and Sporting Lisbon.

Nuño Gomes, the promising Benfica forward, is one to look ont for along with the more established talents of João Pinto, Luis Figo and Paulo Sousa. Celtic and West Ham fans may also get a reminder of the mercurial talents of, respectively, Jorge Cadete and Dani.

The likes of Michael Owen, Dion Dublin and Rio Ferdinaud will also be hoping for a chance to shine as, after this match. Hoddle will be picking just one more squad before the one that matters.

"These matches are very important games for those on the fringe," Ince said. "People like Michael Owen will be thinking: 'Tve had a good season, I've got name 16 or 17 of the final 22, but there are places up for grabs."

Decisions, decisions: Glenn Hoddle has injury worries clouding his plans for Wembley tonight Photograph: Robert Hallam

Strachan escapes stricture

next season. Hartson was found FA because it was his second red

By Andrew Martin

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City manager, has escaped with a warning after admitting a Football Association charge of making insulting comments to a referee.

Strachan was charged after calling Stephen Lodge "a joke" and "an absolute disgrace" following Coventry's 2-2 draw with Arsenal at Highfield Road in January. During the match, Strachan had been angered when the official turned down a penalty appeal by the home side and then seot Paul Williams off for a professional foul on Dennis Bergkamp.

The Coveotry manager accepted the charge of insulting behaviour, when he appeared at the FA disciplinary hearing

John Hartson's ban has been extended to five games, forcing the West Ham striker to miss the first Premiership game of

guilty of misconduct by the FA card of the season.

Howard Kendall expects to hear by the end of the week the ary. He had been banned for results of further tests on John Spencer's heart murmur before completing the Scottish international's transfer from mandatory suspensioo was Queen's Park Rangers for £1.5m. stretched to four games by the The Evertoo manager said: Queen's Park Rangers for £1.5m.

Gullit hits back at 'playboy' jibe

RUUD GULLIT yesterday de- the Blues to the FA Cup last nied that he been a "part-time, playboy manager" at Chelsea. and said he was "extremely hurt" by the comments of the Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, in the cluh's programme - in which the Dutchman was alleged to have neglected his duties in favour of his commercial

following his sending-off at the

Reebok Stadiom on 21 Febru-

three matches for punching the

Derby defender Igor Stimac at

Upton Park on 11 April and that

Gullit, who was suddenly replaced by Gianluca Vialli as manager in January, mainStevenage pay around

season and guiding them to secand place in the Premiership, the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals and Cup-Winners' Cup quarterfinals this season spoke for it-

"If you're a playboy and are not there, then you can't win the FA Cup and be second in the League - that's impossible," he said. "It's a very unfair thing to say - that's what I don't like. Making statements that are not tained that his record in taking true can hurt your reputation."

"When something like this is found, it has to be checked out. Hopefully things will be OK and we will be able to continue

with the transfer." Stevenage Borough are considering moving to another town following a council decisioo to turn down the Vauxhall Conference club's offer to huy their Broadhall Way ground.

£100,000 annual rent to the borough for the land, but their offer, which the club chairman Victor Green says was more than £850,000, has been turned down. "These plans have now been put oo hold indefinitely, and one option we are considering is moving the club to another site, possibly oot in Stevenage," Green said.

Oliver Bierhoff has announced he is leaving Serie A side Udmese and moving to Milan. The 29-year-old striker has been offered a four-year deal with the transfer fee set at around £8m.

Maldini acts over Italians' striking problem

ITALY'S goalscoring problems have prompted their coach, Cesare Maldini, to unveil a threepronged attack for tonight's friendly against Paraguay.

Alessandro Del Piero and Christian Vieri, former club team-mates at Juventus, and the winger Francesco Moriero will start together in the first of two matches Italy has left before the World Cup finals in France.

"I want to test an offensive minded team and Moriero is the right player for this. His imaginative moves and dribbling can produce better scoring chances," Maldini said.

The coach had opted for two forwards throughout qualifying for the finals, and Italy struggled to score. Moriero, earning his second cap, has scored three goals and set up several others during his first campaign with Internazionale. Del Piero and Vieri, who played at Juve together for one year, have scored more than 50 goals between them this season.

The trio will face a Paraguayan team missing two key defenders. Catalino Rivarola, who plays in Brazil, and River Plate's Celso Ayala are sidelined with calf injuries. To compensate, the Paraguay coach, Paulo Cesar Carpegiani, has adopted for a cautious fourman back line. "We are oot going to take undue risks against Italy," Carpegiani said.

The key threat will be from Del Piero, the 23-year-old has been in fine form since September, scoring 30 goals for the defending Serie A champions, 20 in league matches and 10 in the cup. He has scored five goals in 14 games for Italy.

"I discovered him with the Under-21 national team. He has made impressive improvements since then," Maldini said.

Vieri, who left Juventus in the summer to join Atletico Madrid, confirmed his scoring talent in the Spanish league. He is the leading scorer with 22 goals. The sturdy forward netted one of the goals which allowed Italy to overcome Russia on a 2-1 aggregate in a World Cup qualifying play-off.

Angelo Peruzzi will start at goalkeeper against Paraguay. with the 20-year-old Parma keeper Gianluigi Buffon ready to replace him in the second half. Inter's Gianluca Pagliuca, who was not called up for this game, has been named as the reserve keeper for France.

Maldini said other half-time changes are possible, to give international experience to newcomers such as defenders Luigi Sartor and Mark Iuliano and midfielder Luigi Di Biagio. Italy's defence will rely on the Milan stalwarts Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta along with Lazio's Alessandro Nesta and Panna's Fabio Cannavaro.

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